

IVP - Intravenous Pyelogram or Excretory Urogram



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What is an IVP?

An IVP (Intravenous Pyelogram or Excretory Urogram) is a special X-ray of the kidneys, ureters and bladder. These body parts do not show up on X-ray images so a contrast medium or “dye” needs to be injected. The dye is injected into a vein. It travels in the blood to the kidneys, ureters and bladder. As it passes through the kidneys, ureters, and bladder, the technologist takes the X-ray images.

How is it done?

The IVP is done in the Radiology Department. Your child will wear a hospital gown, open at the back, and his/her underpants. Your child empties his/her bladder [“pees”] before the test begins. Then he/she lies on an X-ray table. The technologist takes an X-ray of the abdomen [tummy]. Then the “dye” is injected into a vein [usually in the arm]. The IVP takes 30 - 45 minutes.

How does it feel?

Your child will feel a needle prick with the injection. There is no pain or discomfort during the X-rays.

How do you prepare your child's bowel for the IVP?

To get good images of the kidneys, ureters and bladder, it is best when the bowel is empty.

Babies to 2 years:

- do not give any food or drinks for 3 hours before the IVP.

2 to 6 years old:

- On the day before the IVP, in the afternoon, give your child a 5 mg. Dulcolax tablet to swallow. Dulcolax is medicine to help the bowel empty. Do not crush the tablet. Help the child to swallow it whole. [Ask your pharmacist for ideas on how to do this if you are not sure!]. It does not taste good if your child chews it. Your child must not drink milk or take antacid medicine 1 hour before or after the Dulcolax.
- Do not give your child any solid food on the day of the IVP until after the IVP is finished,
- Do not give your child anything to drink for 3 hours before the IVP.

7 to 16 years old:

- On the day before the IVP, in the afternoon or early evening, give a 10 mg. Dulcolax tablet to your child. Dulcolax is medicine to help the bowel empty. The tablet should be swallowed whole [not crushed or chewed]. Your child must not drink milk or take antacid medicine 1 hour before or after the Dulcolax.

If the IVP is in the morning:

- nothing to eat or drink from midnight the day before the IVP

If the IVP is in the afternoon:

- nothing solid to eat for 6 hours before the test
- nothing to drink for 6 hours before the test

