

IVU X-ray

What is an IVU?

This is an X-ray examination of the kidneys, ureters and bladder. It takes approximately one to one and a half hours to complete. Only rarely will it take longer than this. Before the examination, you will be asked to change from your own clothes into a cotton gown.

You will have one or two X-rays taken and then you will have an injection of an 'X-ray dye' into a vein in your arm. This shows your kidneys and bladder up on the X-ray films. The injection is not a sedative and will not send you to sleep.

After the injection, a series of X-rays are taken at regular intervals to show the passage of the 'dye' through the system. Towards the end of the IVU, you will go to the toilet and empty your bladder. You will then return to the X-ray room to have one more X-ray taken.

NB Due to you having an injection of X-ray dye you will be asked to remain in the hospital for 30 minutes after the injection. This is because occasionally some people may experience side effects such as itching, skin rash or nausea. These side effects are rare.

Preparation and instructions

For two days prior to the examination **avoid eating fruit and green vegetables**. Otherwise eat and drink as normal. Drink plenty of fluids, especially once the examination is over.