

Breast Imaging Suite

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INTRAVENOUS PYELOGRAM (IVP)

An Intravenous Pyelogram (IVP) is an X-ray examination of the kidneys, ureters and urinary bladder. An IVP study uses a contrast material (X-ray dye) to enhance the X-ray images. The contrast material is injected into a vein (usually where the elbow bends) and its progress through the urinary tract is then recorded on a series of quickly captured X-rays. The exam enables the radiologist to review the anatomy and the function of the kidneys and urinary tract.

Preparation

Your doctor will give you detailed instructions on how to prepare for your IVP study. You will likely be instructed not to eat or drink after midnight the night before your exam. You may also be asked to take a mild laxative (in either pill or liquid form) the evening before the procedure. Follow the instructions carefully.

Once you arrive at the imaging center you will be asked to change into a gown before your examination. You will also be asked to remove jewelry, eyeglasses or any metal objects that could obscure the images. Underwear with metallic components should also be removed.

The Procedure

You will be positioned on an exam table. You will be asked to hold your breath as X-ray equipment moves over you. Several X-rays may be taken during the course of the IVP study. During the imaging process you may be asked to turn from side to side and to hold several different positions to enable the radiologist to capture views from several angles. Near the end of the exam you may be asked to empty your bladder so that an additional film can be taken of your urinary bladder after it empties.

The contrast material used for IVP studies will not discolor your urine or cause any discomfort when you urinate. If you experience such symptoms after your IVP exam, let your doctor know right away.

After the Exam

The radiologist will study your exam and give a detailed report to your doctor. Your doctor will discuss these results with you and explain what they mean in relation to your health.

***Note:** Any woman who is pregnant, or thinks she might be, should let her doctor know before proceeding with the exam.*