



# CT Scanning Blackrock Clinic

## CT Myelogram

**Expect to be with us for approximately 3 hours.**

### What is a Computed Tomography (CT) Myelogram?

- A CT scan produces a series of images of an area of your body using X-rays (radiation).
- A myelogram is where x-ray contrast (dye) is injected into the space around your spinal cord by a Consultant Radiologist.
- After the injection you will have a CT scan of your spine.
- This allows the Consultant Radiologist to visualise your spinal cord, canal and nerve roots.

### Preparation before your procedure

- You **DO NOT** need to fast.
- If you take Plavix /Clopidigrel, please withhold for 5 days.
- If you take Xarelto/Eliquis, please withhold for 1 day.
- If you take Clexane please withhold one dose.
- If you take any other anticoagulants not listed please contact the Out Patients Department on 1800 300 200 and ask for CT Bookings.
- If you are on warfarin your INR should be below 1.5.
- Please bring all insurance details. These are required on the day of your procedure on arrival and you will be requested to fill in the appropriate insurance forms.
- Depending on policy type, there may be a shortfall or excess to pay on the day.
- Any relevant scans from other hospitals/clinics should be brought for the procedure.
- Please wear loose comfortable clothing.

- Please have an escort arranged to take you home after your procedure. You will not be allowed to drive.
- If you are asthmatic please bring your inhaler with you.
- This procedure will not be carried out if you are pregnant.

### Arriving for your procedure

- Please report to the Angio Day Unit upon arrival.
- You will be asked to fill in some paperwork.

### Before your procedure

- You will be brought to a cubicle in the Angio Day Care.
- Pre procedure checks will take place here and you will be asked to change into a gown.
- The Consultant Radiologist will explain the procedure and consent you, outlining any risks involved before the procedure begins.
- You will have an opportunity to ask any questions at this point.



## What will my Procedure involve?

- You will be brought to a fluoroscopy room where the injection of contrast (dye) into your lower back will take place.
- In preparation for this you will be asked to lie on your side.
- Your skin will be cleaned with an antiseptic solution which may feel cold on your skin.
- You will then receive a local anaesthetic prior to the injection to numb the area. This may feel like a bee sting.
- Following the injection of contrast a sterile dressing will be applied to the injection site.
- The table you are lying on will then tilt up and down to help move the contrast around your spinal cord. You may also be asked to roll side to side.
- After this you will be taken for a CT Scan of your spine. This will demonstrate the contrast around the spinal cord.
- For the scan you will be instructed to lie on your back on the scan table and follow some breathing instructions. The table will move in and out of the scanner as the images of your spine are taken.

## After the scan

- Once finished you will be assisted off the CT scan table by one of the CT team and brought back to your cubicle in the Angio Day Unit where the Radiology Nurse will assess you post procedure and you will rest for some time.
- You will be instructed to keep your head elevated and drink plenty of water.
- You will be discharged once the rest period is complete or your post injection checks are normal.
- An escort must bring you home. You are not to drive until the next day.
- You may experience a headache and sometimes back or limb pain post procedure. These should last no longer than 2-3 days. Take pain relief if required.
- If any complications arise once you are home please contact your GP or A&E Department. Alternatively you can contact the Out Patients Department within working hours (9am-6pm) on 1800 300 200 and you will be directed to an appropriate member of staff.

## Cancellation/Rearrangements of Appointment

- If you need to cancel or rearrange your CT Myelogram please contact the Out Patients Department on 1800 300 200 prior to your appointment.