

What are these Procedures?

These are treatments which will either expand the tube draining your salivary gland to a normal width or extract a stone. You will have undergone a diagnostic ultrasound or sialogram before having this procedure performed.

Do I need to stop my medication?

Most medication is absolutely fine. If you are on blood thinning medication, please contact the department.

What does the procedure involve?

When you arrive for the procedure, the consultant will talk you through what you can expect, the normal process and any potential complications. This procedure requires formal consent and you will be asked to sign the consent form. If you need or would like an interpreter, please contact the department and we can help arrange this.

You will be asked to remove any metallic objects from your head and neck region. You will lie on the x-ray table. The doctor may use ultrasound to locate the stone/gland as well as using x-ray guidance. You may be given a sour tasting liquid, such as lemon juice, in order to open your salivary glands.

Once the duct is located, you may be given a local anaesthetic in order to numb the area. A tube will be inserted into the gland and contrast may be injected in order to identify either the narrowed region or the location of the stone.

If the gland requires widening, a small balloon is inserted and expanded and you may experience a feeling of pressure. If a stone requires extraction, a small basket is inserted which is tightened around the stone and then pulled out of the gland.

During this procedure you may experience a pulling/pushing sensation. Both of these processes may cause minor discomfort but should not be painful.

After the Procedure

You may experience minor pain for 24-48 hours. You may take over-the-counter pain relief (e.g. paracetamol, ibuprofen or aspirin) during this period.

- Massaging the area and sucking sour sweets may be helpful in draining the saliva from the glands.
- Rinsing your mouth with salty water can alleviate discomfort and help avoid infection.
- Minor oozing of blood into your mouth may occur. This is normal.

Seek help if you have:

- Severe pain & tenderness in the area
- Fever
- Pain that is not helped by painkillers
- Redness or an increase in skin temperature in the area
- Pus (yellow, thick fluid) discharging from the gland.

The above symptoms may be an indication that the gland has become infected (an occasional side-

effect of the procedure). If so, you will require antibiotics. Please seek medical attention and take this leaflet with you to the doctor.

When can I resume my normal activities?

You can resume normal activities after 24 hours following the procedure.

Can I drive after the procedure?

If you have received only a local anaesthetic, you may drive after the procedure. If you are experiencing discomfort, please consider carefully whether you will be safe to drive. If you think your concentration may be at risk, then please avoid driving. It may be useful for a friend or relative to accompany you in case you are unable to drive.

When do I get results?

At the end of the examination, the radiologist should give you feedback on how well the procedure has gone. The results will be sent to the referring doctor and you may receive a follow up appointment or letter from them.

Contact us

If you have any queries or require further information, please call radiology: 01342 414249
Monday to Friday 09.00-17.00pm.

If you have had the procedure and are experiencing any of the symptoms which are listed under the 'seek help' section; please ring your GP or 111 (out of normal hours).

Salivary Duct Dilatation or Stone Removal

Information sheet

Please ask if you
would like this leaflet
in larger print or a
different format.

Radiology Department
Issue 1 – Ref: no. 0614
Reviewed by Patient Information Group
Published January 2018 Review December 2020

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