

# Myelogram

## After the test?

You'll be taken to a patient observation area where you can rest quietly in bed with your head elevated. Periodically, a nurse will take your temperature, blood pressure and pulse, and offer you fluids to drink. Under normal circumstances, you should be able to leave the medical center five or six hours after the myelogram.

## How and when will I get my test results?

Typically, within 48 hours a written report of your test results will be sent to your referring doctor, who will review them with you. Additional time (3 to 5 days) may be required if we are comparing these test results to previous findings from other facilities.

## Where is this test performed?

Your myelogram test will be performed in the Imaging Services Department of Cayuga Medical Center.

## Notes

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

APPOINTMENT DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TIME \_\_\_\_\_



## Imaging Services Location:

**Cayuga Medical Center**  
101 Dates Drive  
Ithaca, New York 14850

**(607) 274-4376**

[www.cayugamed.org](http://www.cayugamed.org)



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A Member of Cayuga Health System

# Welcome to the Department of Imaging Services at Cayuga Medical Center

We are here to assist in the diagnosis of medical conditions and orthopedic injuries using various forms of radiography and imaging technology. We want to make you as comfortable as possible during your exam, while providing timely, thorough, and accurate diagnostic information to your doctor.

The information in this brochure will tell you about the imaging study for which you are scheduled. If you have additional questions, please feel free to call **(607) 274-4376** and ask for the diagnostic supervisor. This person will be able to help you.

## About our Imaging Services



Cayuga Medical Center has a commitment to and reputation for staying abreast of changing technology and our imaging equipment is state-of-the-art.

Our range of services is comprehensive and we offer all imaging modalities found in major medical centers. Radiologists are on site at all three of our locations, which also distinguishes the level of service we provide.

Imaging Services is staffed by six board certified radiologists, many of whom are sub-specialists in areas such as neuroradiology, abdominal CT, and interventional procedures. Assisting them are experienced radiologic technologists and sonographers, many of whom have completed advanced training and are certified in specialty modalities.

## Myelogram

### What is the test?

A myelogram examines the spinal cord and canal for injury or disease. Using a contrast media, which is injected into the spinal cord canal with a needle, a radiologist records images with a special camera called a fluoroscope. In some cases, a myelogram may be followed by computerized axial tomography (CAT scan).

### How do I prepare?

Talk to your doctor prior to the myelogram. It is important that your doctor and radiologist are aware of all of your medications, because there are several prescriptions and over-the-counter medications that should not be taken before having a myelogram. Also, please notify your doctor if you are pregnant. Unless you are advised otherwise, you may take your usual morning medications on the day of the exam.

Do not eat solid food after midnight before your myelogram. On the morning of the procedure — up until 2 hours before the exam — you may drink clear liquids, such as water, clear juices, broth, soft drinks, tea, but not coffee. Do not eat or drink anything 2 hours before your procedure.

Make arrangements to have someone drive you home after the procedure.

### What can I expect during the procedure?

Plan to arrive at outpatient registration 30 minutes before your appointment. A nurse will take your medical history and assist you into a hospital gown. During the myelogram, you will be asked to lie on an X-ray table, on your stomach. The radiologist will inject a local anesthetic into your lower back, which may cause a stinging sensation. After the area is numb, the contrast media will be injected into your spinal canal through another needle. This may cause a feeling of pressure. At this point, X-ray films are taken; you may be moved into different positions on the table to get a variety of views. The test takes about one hour to complete.