

MYELOGRAM

PREPARATION

Nothing to eat or drink for 4 hours prior to the procedure.

Discontinue the use of neuroleptic drugs 48 hours prior to the procedure if possible. These medications should not be resumed until 24 hours after the procedure.

Patients on anti-convulsants should continue with their medication.

The physician should consult with a radiologist for any patient with a history of allergy to iodine, drug and contrast media allergies, hayfever and asthma.

PROCEDURE

This test involves the injection of x-ray dye into the subarachnoid space that surrounds the spinal cord. This helps to demonstrate the spinal cord and its nerves. The dye is injected using sterile technique into the lower back and can be moved through the spinal canal by tipping the x-ray table. A CT scan may be performed after the recovery period to allow the dye from the Myelogram to be partially absorbed.

Time to perform: 30 – 45 minutes

Recovery Time: 3 hours

This may be followed by a CT of the spine – 20 minutes