

# Your child is having a Sialogram. Information for families

A Sialogram is a scan to look at your child's salivary glands. These are located inside the mouth, one in each cheek and one on each side near the tongue. This information sheet from Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) explains what is involved and what to expect.

## When you receive your appointment letter

If you are unable to keep this appointment, please inform the department as soon as possible.

If your child is likely to need a hoist during the appointment, please telephone us so that we can make sure this is ready for you.

## Before the appointment

If you are pregnant or think you could be pregnant, please let us know. The x-rays used in the fluoroscopy scan could harm your unborn baby, so we would advise bringing another adult to come into the scanning room with your child.

If your child is 12 years old or older and of childbearing potential, we will ask them about their periods and any possibility that they could be pregnant; this is a legal obligation that we must ask.

The person bringing your child to the scan should have 'Parental Responsibility' for them. Parental Responsibility refers to the individual who has legal rights, responsibilities, duties,

power and authority to make decisions for a child. If the person bringing your child does not have Parental Responsibility, we may have to cancel the scan.

## What to bring with you?

It can help if your child has a favourite toy to hold to comfort them during the study. Electronic devices such as iPads are welcome.

You might want to bring some spare clothes in case any of the contrast liquid spills.

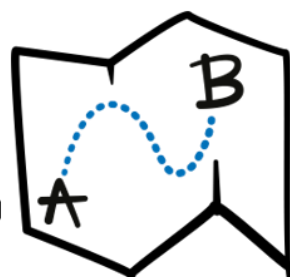
## The day of the examination

Please arrive at the Radiology department at the time stated in your child's appointment letter.

Please dress your child in clothing which does not contain metal, for example zips and buttons.

## The study

You are welcome to stay with your child throughout the test. Everyone staying inside the examination room will need to wear a heavy lead coat.



Before we begin, your child will need to remove any metallic objects and may need to wear a hospital gown.

Your child will lie on the x-ray bed and the doctor will give your child a few drops of pure lemon juice or a sweet to suck on. This is to stimulate the salivary glands to produce saliva and so the radiology doctor can see the opening of the little tube that brings saliva into the opening in the mouth.

We will ask your child to open their mouth widely while the doctor inserts a thin probe just inside the opening of each salivary gland. A small amount of liquid will be passed through the probe and into the gland.

A series of x-rays will then be taken while the liquid is in the salivary glands.

You may wish to talk the test through with your child before you come. The radiology doctor will need to be working close to your child and your child will need to keep very still while the tiny probe is placed inside the mouth. This is not painful at all but does require that the child really tries to cooperate – as best they can.

## After the study

Once the study is complete, the probes will be removed from the mouth. You will be free to go home.

A report outlining the results of the test will be sent to the doctor who referred your child for this test.

## When you get home

Your child's mouth may be sore after the procedure. You may give your child pain relief if required. If your child develops a high temperature, or becomes unwell, please contact your family doctor (GP) or attend your local A&E.

## Are there any risks?

The contrast liquid will not interfere with any medicines your child is taking.

**It is our legal duty to tell you about the potential risk of having a fluoroscopy study. The studies are only ever requested if the benefits outweigh the risks involved. The study does use radiation, but the dose is kept as low as possible. This is because the radiographers are specially trained to obtain the best quality pictures while using the lowest amount of radiation possible.**

**Anyone staying in the room with your child will need to wear a lead apron – this works as a barrier to radiation. We advise that anyone who is pregnant or thinks they might be pregnant should not go into the room.**

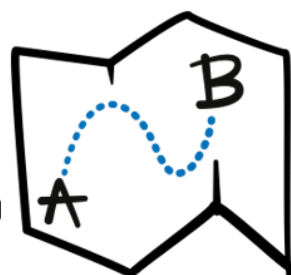
## Are there any alternatives?

Other types of imaging studies can also visualise the salivary glands and we may also perform ultrasound and/or MRI (although this will need to be booked separately).

## Further information and support

If you have any questions, please telephone the Radiology department on 020 7829 8615, extension 0361.

If your child feels unwell after the test, please phone NHS 111 or attend your local Urgent Care Centre or Emergency Department.



## Your feedback

We take all feedback very seriously and want to hear about your experiences on Kingfisher ward. Your feedback helps us to understand what we are doing well but importantly how we can improve. We will give you a feedback card during your stay on the ward but if you haven't received one, please ask a member of staff. You can also provide feedback using this QR code or via our website: <https://www.gosh.nhs.uk/your-opinion-matters/>



## Any concerns?

We know we do not always get things right. As explained above, please do raise any queries or issues with the ward staff in the

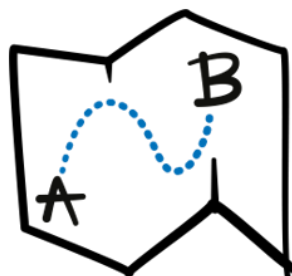
first instance. We want to help and often we are able to resolve things quickly.

Another way of raising a concern is to contact our **Pals Office** – they are based in the main reception area and open from Monday to Friday from 10am to 5pm. You can also call them on 020 7829 7862 or email [pals@gosh.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@gosh.nhs.uk). The Pals team can offer independent advice and support, working with you to sort out a problem along with members of staff.












The **Complaints** team are also available if you want to make a complaint – you can call them on 020 7813 8402 or email [complaints@gosh.nhs.uk](mailto:complaints@gosh.nhs.uk)

## Other information

If you require a copy of this information in a different format or language, please contact the Pals team for assistance.



## Having a salivary gland scan

	You have come for a scan to look at the glands inside of your mouth.
	If you want us to explain anything again, please ask us at any time during the scan.
	Your special adult can always be with you.
	You may need to wear a hospital gown.
	You will need to lie down on the bed for the scan.
	We will need you to open your mouth so we can put some liquid you're your salivary glands.
	We need you to stay very still while we take some pictures.
	When we have enough pictures, you can move again and get off the scanning bed.
	If you do not have any other appointments, you can go home.
	Your mouth may feel a bit sore afterwards.
	We will send a report of the scan to your doctors.

