ASCOT RADIOLOGY

Sialogram

WHAT IS A SIALOGRAM?

A sialogram is an x-ray test using contrast (x-ray dye) to look at the larger salivary glands (the parotid or submandibular) in detail. These glands help to keep your mouth moist by draining saliva into your mouth through small tubes called ducts. The salivary glands and ducts cannot be seen on ordinary x-rays so contrast is used to demonstrate them.

REASONS FOR THE PROCEDURE:

Most people who need a sialogram have some swelling or discomfort in their face.

BEFORE THE PROCEDURE:

- There is no special preparation necessary for a sialogram. If you have dentures, you may be asked to remove them.
- X-rays of the salivary glands will be taken before the test begins.

DURING THE PROCEDURE:

- You will be asked to lie on your back on the x-ray table.
- A small plastic tube is inserted into the tiny opening inside your mouth that leads to the duct of the salivary gland you are having trouble with.
- Once this tube is in the correct position, contrast will be injected through it into the salivary gland.
- Another set of x-rays are taken to show the salivary duct and gland with the contrast. These images are then compared to the initial (control) x-rays.
- Once the radiologist is satisfied that they have all the information they need, the tube is removed.
- The procedure usually takes about 30 minutes.

AFTER THE PROCEDURE:

- Once the test is finished you will be able to go home or back to work.
- You can eat and drink normally.
- The results of your sialogram will be sent to your referring doctor later in the day.

RISKS OF THE PROCEDURE:

- You may notice a slight swelling to the side of the face being examined after the sialogram. This usually passes off within 24 hours. **If it lasts longer than this, please contact your GP.**
- Sometimes people notice a slight ache in their face when the contrast is being injected. This usually passes off when the plastic tube is removed.
- 1 person in 40,000 has a severe allergic reaction to contrast. If this reaction occurs, you will be given appropriate treatment in the x-ray department.

ASCOT HOSPITAL: 90 Green Lane East, Remuera, Auckland TEL: (09) 520 9550 FAX: (09) 520 9551
EMAIL: ct@ascotrad.co.nz **www.ascotrad.co.nz**