

MYELOGRAM INFORMATION

This is a sample of the form that will be provided

Your physician has referred you to Radiological Associates of Sacramento for a myelogram. This is a commonly used special x-ray examination of the spinal canal that is highly accurate in the diagnosis of certain diseases in this part of the body. Although there are some risks involved, your doctor needs this information because he/she suspects a condition that may be detrimental to your well-being. The information gained from the myelogram should be helpful in determining how to best care for you.

In this procedure the skin of the lower spine is cleansed and, using a small amount of local anesthetic, a special needle is inserted into a chosen space in the lower spine. A special fluid is injected through the same needle and the spinal canal is studied with x-rays and films. Depending upon the areas of interest for your particular problem(s), greater or lesser degrees of tilting of the x-ray table are used to move the liquid along the spinal canal.

As with most medical procedures, there are some risks associated with this examination. You and your family should be informed of these; however, your referring physician has determined that this examination is desirable for the diagnosis of your condition and the benefits of diagnosis outweigh the associated risks. The most common risk is a "spinal headache" which is described as being similar to a hangover headache. It may last a few hours to several days and is commonly treated with pain medication. Much less commonly, such headaches are associated with nausea and vomiting. A rare complication is an early or late inflammatory reaction in the spinal canal. This may last only 24 to 48 hours and should not be associated with lasting effects. More rarely, an unpredictable severe reaction could conceivably occur with scarring, or persistent back or leg pain. Seizures are very rarely a complication.

It is the judgment of your doctor that the potential benefit of this procedure for diagnosis of your condition far outweighs risking the occurrence of the above complications.

For the remainder of the day following the procedure, you should limit your activity and not operate an automobile or similar equipment. **Please arrange for someone to drive you home.** If you need to reschedule, please call 453-9999 at least 24 to 48 hours prior to your appointment.