

## Fluoroscopy – Myelogram

To schedule: (319) 861-7778

Questions about your procedure: (319) 398-6050

### What is Fluoroscopy?

Fluoroscopy is an X-ray study of moving body structures--similar to an X-ray "movie." A continuous X-ray beam is passed through the body part being examined. The beam is transmitted to a computer monitor so that the body part and its motion can be seen in detail.

### What is a Myelogram Procedure?

A myelogram is an x-ray study of the fluid-filled canal surrounding your spinal cord. Through a spinal tap (also called a lumbar puncture) in the lower back or in the neck, x-ray "dye" (contrast media) is injected into the space around the spinal cord. The myelogram procedure is used to diagnose spinal disc problems, spinal tumors or spinal abscesses.

### Preparation:

- Your ordering provider will give you specific instructions regarding preparation for the procedure
- An IV (intravenous line) may be started by the nurse before the myelogram procedure
- Please inform your provider before the exam if:
  - You are pregnant
  - You have ever had a reaction to x-ray contrast media or any other substance containing iodine
  - You have any allergies
  - You are taking any medications, prescription or over the counter, especially anti-depressants or blood thinners
- No food or liquid 4 hours prior to the exam
- If you are diabetic and taking medication, please contact your provider regarding diabetic medications
- You must have a driver and someone to stay with you 24 hours post procedure.
- Because your procedure will require signing a consent to complete the exam, Mercy requests you do not take any narcotics, sedatives or antianxiety medications four hours preceding your scheduled exam

### Procedure:

You will be required to arrive 1 ½ hours prior to the time of the exam for preparation in the Recovery Bay. The procedure will be performed in Radiology. You will lie on your stomach for the procedure which takes approximately 60 minutes. The Radiologist will clean your lower back with an antiseptic solution and a local anesthetic (pain-relieving medication) will be injected into your back. After the area becomes numb, a hollow needle will be placed into a specific space in your lower back to inject the x-ray "dye". A sequence of images will be taken. The table you will be lying on is tilted to obtain all the views necessary for an accurate diagnosis. After the myelogram is completed, you will be instructed to keep your head elevated and remain flat on your back. You will be moved to the Computed Tomography (CT) department for additional imaging of your spine.

**Post Procedure:**

You will return to the Recovery Bay where you will be monitored for approximately 2 hours following the procedure.

You will be given additional post-procedure instructions following the exam.

**Mercy Hospital Parking:**

Park in the Mercy Medical Center 10<sup>th</sup> Street Parking Ramp, located at the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. Please check in at the **Registration Desk**, located on the **Ground (G) Level 1 ½ hours prior** to your procedure for prep.

**Procedure Results:**

A radiologist will review the images shortly after your exam is completed. A written report will be sent to the provider who ordered your exam. Your provider will discuss the results with you. Results will typically be available for your provider within two business days of the exam. Results will also be sent to your MyChart account.