

## Questions

If you have any other questions that have not been answered by this leaflet, please ask the doctor when you next attend an appointment.

## Contact details

Oral and Maxillofacial Department  
Lister Hospital  
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**Telephone:** Lister Department, Stevenage ☎ 01438 284060  
New QEII, Welwyn Garden City ☎ 01707 247575

Monday to Thursday, 8.30am - 5pm  
and Friday, 8.30am - 1pm.

Out of these working hours please contact:  
Luton and Dunstable Hospital out of hours service ☎ **01582 491166**  
and **ask for the maxillofacial doctor on call.**

[www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk](http://www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk)

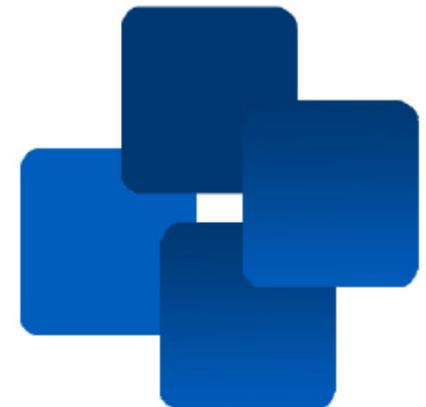
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## Patient Information

### Sialogram

Oral and Maxillofacial  
Department

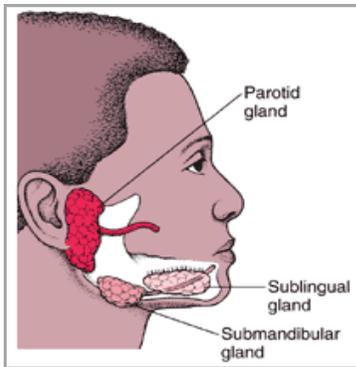


## Introduction

The purpose of this leaflet is to help you understand your forthcoming treatment and provide answers to some of the more common questions.

## What is a sialogram?

A sialogram is an x-ray investigation of a salivary gland. It is carried out to look in detail at the larger salivary glands, (parotid or submandibular glands). These glands drain into your mouth through small tubes (ducts).

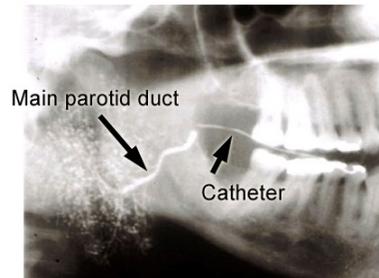


The parotid duct opens on the inside of the cheek next to the upper back teeth.

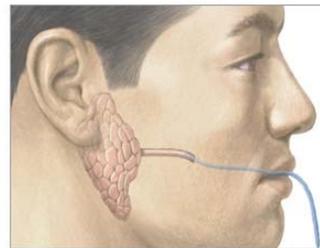
The submandibular duct opens on the inside of the mouth under the tongue immediately behind the lower front teeth.

## What does a sialogram involve?

The radiologist (x-ray doctor) who performs your sialogram will pass a small plastic tube (catheter) into the duct of the salivary gland under investigation. This does not require local anaesthetic.



Once this tube is in the correct position, contrast medium (like a dye) will be injected into the salivary gland. This will take a few minutes to complete.



Contrast medium is injected into the salivary gland duct

ADAM

The tube is then removed and an x-ray picture is taken.

## How long will the sialogram take?

It usually takes around 30 minutes to perform the investigation from start to finish. It is important to remember that just because a sialogram takes a little longer it does not necessarily mean that there is something wrong.

## Can I eat or drink before the procedure?

You may eat, drink and take any medication prior to your sialogram.

## Does it hurt?

You may experience some discomfort in your salivary gland during the introduction of the plastic tube but after that the procedure is painless.

## Is there anything else I should know?

Due to the time required to look at all the pictures your sialogram produces, the report will be ready several days after your visit.

## Follow-up

You will receive a follow-up appointment for a review in the outpatient department to discuss the findings of your sialogram and any further treatment that might be necessary.