



Spine Institute of Arizona

CT SCAN / MYELOGRAM

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A CT/Myelogram is a diagnostic test that is performed at a hospital or outpatient radiology facility by a radiologist. This test will allow your surgeon and radiologist to visualize any conditions that might exist in the spine and spinal cord.

During the myelogram, the radiologist will administer a local anesthetic injection after which a spinal needle will be inserted into the spinal canal. After removal of a small sample of spinal fluid for analysis, the radiologist will inject a contrast agent into the spinal canal. While the contrast is still in the spinal canal, the radiologist will adjust the table head up and down so the agent can move to the area that is to be examined. The procedure usually takes 15 minutes to an hour to perform. X-Ray pictures will be taken at this time.

A CT Scan will be performed following the myelogram which will provide further information regarding your condition. This will involve lying down in a short tube which takes special pictures of your back or neck.

After this procedure, you will need to lay flat with your head slightly elevated. You should drink increased amounts of water following this test. Please bring someone with you on the day of your test to drive you home. It is also a good idea to avoid maneuvers that will increase your intraspinal fluid pressure such as lifting/carrying items greater than 10 pounds, bending/twisting at the waist, or bearing down with bowel movements.

Pre-procedure instructions:

There are no diet restrictions (i.e., you do not need to fast), prior to this test.

Anti-inflammatory medications (e.g., Aspirin, Motrin, Ibuprofen, Naprosyn, Aleve, Daypro, Voltaren, Celebrex), should be stopped 7 days prior to the test.

Please inform the radiologist prior to the test of any known allergies to medications or dyes.

Occasionally patients develop a spinal headache following the test. The headache usually resolves in a few days, however, occasionally this condition may warrant further medical treatment.