

Myelogram

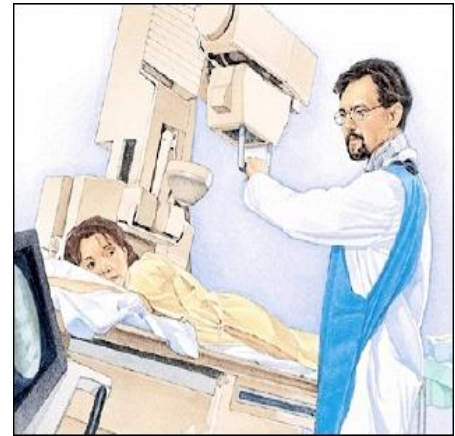
A **myelogram** is a procedure used to check problems with your **spinal canal**, a tunnel-like structure in your spine that holds your spinal cord. A myelogram uses X-ray and CT (computed tomography) to create pictures of your spinal canal. You will need to schedule this test with Central Scheduling (630-856-7070).

Before Your Test

- You will be instructed to not eat the morning of the test, but you can drink water or other clear fluids, if instructed to do so.
- If instructed, stop taking medications before the test.
- You will be asked for a list of medications that you take.
- You must arrange for someone to drive you home after the test.

Tell the health care provider if you:

- Are pregnant or think you may be
- Have any bleeding problems
- Take blood thinners (anticoagulants) or other medications, including aspirin
- Have had back surgery or low-back pain
- Have any allergies



The exam table may be tilted during the x-ray.

During Your Test

- You will change into a hospital gown.
- X-rays of your spine may be taken.
- Your lower back will be cleaned, covered with sterile drapes, and injected with a local anesthetic.
- Contrast fluid will be injected into your spinal canal and a small amount of spinal fluid may be withdrawn.
- Additional x-rays will be taken. You will be turned into different positions.
- If you need a CT test, it will follow the x-rays.

After Your Test

- Take it easy for the rest of the day, as advised.
- Lie down with your head raised if you get a headache, or if instructed to do so.
- Drink plenty of water the day of the procedure.
- Contact your doctor's office for results.

Call Your Doctor If:

- You have a headache that lasts 2 days or more
- You have a fever
- You have lasting pain in your back, or tingling in your groin or legs