

Salivary gland interventions (Sialoplasty) - Information for patients

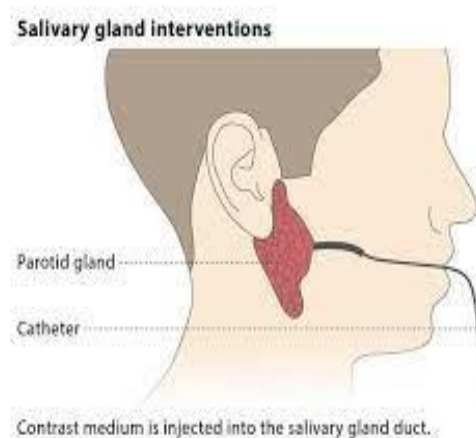
This leaflet aims to answer some of the questions you may have about having a salivary gland intervention (sialoplasty). It explains the risks and the benefits of the procedure and what you can expect when you come to hospital.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to the staff caring for you.

What is a salivary gland intervention?

The salivary glands produce saliva, which drains into the mouth via small tubes (ducts) and helps to break down food. There are 3 major pairs of glands – the submandibular glands (under the jawbone), the parotid glands (between the ear and the jaw) and the sublingual glands (under the tongue). Occasionally these glands can become obstructed because stones have formed or there is a narrowing in the duct.

A stone or a narrowing of the duct can be treated surgically though this can be complicated and carry risks such as facial nerve damage and paralysis. However, interventional radiology offers minimally invasive procedures using dilators, baskets or balloons under x-ray guidance to restore proper function to the gland.



What are the possible risks of having a salivary gland intervention?

A sialoplasty is a very safe procedure, but as with any medical procedure there are some risks and complications that can occur. The Radiologist will explain these to you before the procedure. Below is a list of some possible risks:

- On a few occasions the procedure may be unsuccessful if the stone causing the blockage is too large
- The procedure carries the risk of a small amount of bleeding in the mouth (though this is self-limiting and will not require treatment), discomfort/pain during the procedure and infection
- Very rare but more serious complications include tears to the duct or duct detachment which may subsequently require removal of the gland

Contrast

Sialoplasty uses x-ray dye (contrast), and very rarely, a reaction may occur. If you have ever had a test that uses x-ray and you have had a reaction to it, you should tell the doctor or nurse before you have your sialoplasty. A reaction may take the form of a rash or itching and very rarely, a more severe allergic reaction can occur. The team are trained to deal with this and have measures in place to deal with this safely should this occur.

If you have had a previous reaction, please let us know, and we can put measures in place to minimise risk from another reaction.

Radiation – Benefit versus Risk

Sialoplasty uses X-ray radiation. The radiation dose that you get from a sialoplasty is small and the associated risks are low. Clinical staff consider both the risks and benefits when deciding what examination is appropriate for you. The benefits of having the sialoplasty outweigh any risk. Clinical staff are responsible for making sure that the dose you receive is kept as low as necessary to aid your diagnosis or treatment.

Pregnancy

If you are in the early stages of pregnancy there is a very small risk of x-rays harming your unborn child. If you think you could be pregnant, or you are trying to get pregnant, please tell us before your appointment. Individuals aged 10-55 will be asked to confirm their pregnancy status by the radiographer before the procedure and sign a form.

Giving your consent (permission)

We want you to be involved in all the decisions about your care and treatment. If you choose to go ahead, you will be asked to sign a consent form. This confirms that you agree to have the procedure and understand everything involved. Students/trainees may be present during the examination but only with your verbal consent.

Please remember that you can ask the Interventional Radiologist any questions you have at any time before, during or after your scan.

Pre-assessment

Pre-assessment is not required.

Fasting

You may continue to eat and drink as normal and take regular medications as normal.

What happens before the procedure?

Please attend the appropriate department as stated on your appointment letter (usually Day of Surgery or a ward). There is no preparation required for this procedure.

When you receive your letter, please let us know if you have any of the following:

• Severe allergies?
• Have you had a previous adverse reaction to x-ray dye before?
• Asthma, which is poorly controlled?
• Renal impairment (poor kidney function)?
• Diabetes, which is treated with Metformin therapy?
• Are taking any anti-coagulants (blood thinners)?

You will be asked to change into a hospital gown and a small cannula (thin tube) may be inserted in your arm. You will be brought to the Interventional suite in your bed, where you will be met by a team of nurses, a Radiographer and an Interventional Radiologist (doctor). The procedure will be explained to you by the Radiologist and you will be asked to sign a consent form. The Royal Victoria Hospital is a teaching hospital and as such university students may be in attendance, with your permission.

What happens during the test?

You will be helped to transfer onto the X-ray table and monitors attached to record heart rate and blood pressure. You will be awake for the procedure.

You will be asked to rinse your mouth with a lemon flavoured liquid to help open the salivary duct and then lie down on the x-ray bed. A thin plastic tube will be inserted into the small hole through which the saliva enters the mouth from the salivary gland. Once the tube is in place a small amount of contrast (x-ray dye) is injected into the gland whilst x-rays are taken to assess the location and cause of the problem. If there is a section of narrowing the Radiologist will pass a tube containing a tiny balloon to the narrowed section of the duct. Once in the correct position, the radiologist will inflate the balloon to stretch the narrowing which may cause some mild discomfort for a few seconds. If a stone is present the Radiologist can use a dilator, wire retrievable basket or balloons to extract the stones in order to relieve your symptoms.

What happens after the test?

Once the procedure is completed you will return to the Day of Surgery Unit/ ward for nursing staff to monitor you post procedure. You can usually eat and drink normally, unless told not to. You will generally go home later that day. You may experience some swelling and discomfort but this does not last longer than 24-28hours. Should you experience persistent pain/ swelling please seek medical advice. Some patients may experience a tingling sensation in the tongue, but this will resolve itself with time.

Results

You may be able to discuss your procedure with the performing interventional radiologist once it is complete. The performing interventional radiologist will formally report on your procedure, and it will be attached to the images on our Radiology Information System (RIS). A copy of the report will be sent by Radiology to the referring clinician. Any follow up will be arranged by the referring clinician.

Duration and Location

Admission is to a Day of Surgery Unit (DSU) or ward as stated on your appointment letter. Here is where you will be looked after pre and post procedure by a team of nurses. You will be transferred to the Interventional Radiology Suite in your bed, at the required time.

The procedure itself, performed in the Interventional Radiology Suite, should take approximately 1 hour.

Whilst we try to accommodate all patients at their appointed time, occasionally emergency patients arise which may delay procedure or result in an extended length of time in DSU prior to the procedure. Your procedure may be cancelled due to emergency cases and will be reappointed for the next available slot.

Image sharing

Your images will be electronically stored on the hospital picture archiving system. This data can be accessed throughout the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and other doctors and health care professionals who are directly involved in your care. The ability to share images and radiological reports will improve the safety and quality of your care by ensuring that the right information is available in the right place at the right time.

In order to improve the medical services we provide we may also use your data as anonymously as possible for internal audit and medical education. If you would prefer that your data is not used for these purposes, please inform a member of staff when you attend for your examination.

If your data is to be used for research, then a separate consent process will be used. You will be asked for your consent, should this be the case.

Contact us

If you have any queries, we will be happy to answer any questions before or after your procedure and you can contact us on the number given on your appointment letter.

For procedures performed at the Royal Victoria Hospital, please email
InterventionRadRVH@belfasttrust.hscni.net Tel: 02896156661 Interventional Radiology
Secretary RVH

For procedures at the Belfast City Hospital, please email
InterventionRadBCH@belfasttrust.hscni.net Tel: 02895041165 Interventional Radiology
Secretary BCH

Feedback

We hope you found the information in this leaflet helpful. If it did not tell you what you needed to know or you would like to provide any feedback on your experience please let us know so that we can make any necessary improvements.

You can provide feedback on your experience:

Telephone: (028) 9504 8000 (Monday-Friday: 9am-4pm)

Textphone: 18001 028 950 48000

By email: compliments@belfasttrust.hscni.net

By email: complaints@belfasttrust.hscni.net

By completing an online form: <http://www.belfasttrust.hscni.net/contact/FeedbackForm.htm>

Care Opinion



We invite you to share your experience by clicking the following link:
<https://www.careopinion.org.uk/>

or by scanning the following QR code on your smartphone or tablet:



Language and accessible support services

Deaf/Hard of Hearing

If a Sign Language interpreter is required, please either telephone **028 9615 8900** via the Sign Video remote interpreting service (<https://signvideo.co.uk/deaf-community/>) or email us at MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net and we will arrange one for your appointment. Please have your H&C number ready when calling or include it in your email. This can be found at the top right corner of any Health and Social Care letters you may have received.

If you are unable to hear on the phone and need to contact us with regards to your appointment you can email us at MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net.

Do you need this information in another format or language?

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, including Braille, large print, CD, audio tape please contact the telephone number **028 9615 8900** or e-mail address MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net, and we will do our best to meet your needs.

Polish - Czy potrzebujesz tych informacji w innym formacie lub języku?

Fundusz ma dostęp do usług w zakresie tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych. Jeśli potrzebujesz tych informacji w innym języku lub formacie, w tym w piśmie Braille'a, dużym druku, na płycie CD, kasecie magnetofonowej, skontaktuj się z nami pod numerem telefonu lub adresem e-mail **028 9615 8900 / MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net**, a my dołożymy wszelkich starań, aby spełnić Twoje potrzeby.

Arabic - هل تحتاج هذه المعلومات بصيغة أو بلغة أخرى؟

تستطيع الجمعية توفير خدمات الترجمة الفورية والتحريرية. إذا احتجت هذه المعلومات بلغة أو بصيغة أخرى، بما فيها صيغة برايل Braille أو صيغة بالأحرف الكبيرة، أو في سي دي CD أو في شريط مسموع، يُرجى الاتصال برقم التليفون أو عبر البريد الإلكتروني **MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net / 028 9615 8900**، وسوف نبذل قصارى جهدنا في تلبية احتياجاتك.

Lithuanian - Ar jums reikia šios informacijos kitu formatu ar kalba?

Tarnyba gali suteikti vertimo žodžiu ir raštu paslaugas. Jei reikia šios informacijos kita kalba ar formatu, įskaitant Brailio raštą, didelį šriftą, kompaktinį diską, garso įrašą, skambinkite telefonu arba susisiekite el. paštu MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net / **028 9615 8900** ir mes padarysime viską, kad patenkintume jūsų poreikius.

Romanian - Aveți nevoie de aceste informații într-un alt format sau altă limbă?

Trustul are acces la servicii de interpretariat și traducere. Dacă aveți nevoie de aceste informații într-o altă limbă sau într-un alt format, inclusiv Braille, tipărire cu caractere de mari dimensiuni, CD, înregistrare audio, atunci vă rugăm să ne contactați la numărul de telefon sau la adresa de e-mail MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net / **028 9615 8900**, iar noi vom face tot posibilul pentru satisfacerea necesităților dumneavoastră.

Tetum - Ita presiza atu informasaun ida ne'e iha formatu ka lian seluk ka lae?

Fidusiáriu ida ne'e iha asesu ba servisu durubasa no tradusaun. Se Ita presiza informasaun ida ne'e iha lian ka formatu seluk, inklui letra Braile, letra boot, CD, kasete audio, entaun favór telefone númeru ka enderesu e-mail MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net / **028 9615 8900**, no ami sei halo esforsu tomak atu kumpre Ita-nia nesesidade sira.