

This x-ray examination of your urinary tract (kidneys, ureters, and bladder) will be done by a radiologist, who is a physician specializing in medical diagnosis by x-ray, and a technologist, who is an expert in the use of x-ray equipment.

## Important

If you are or might be pregnant, you should inform your own doctor. You should also bring this to the attention of the radiologist and x-ray technologist.

If you have any allergies or previously have had difficulties with an x-ray test that involved an injection of dye, please inform your own doctor as soon as possible before the exam. Also notify the radiologist and x-ray technologist.

Patients who are on medication may take them.

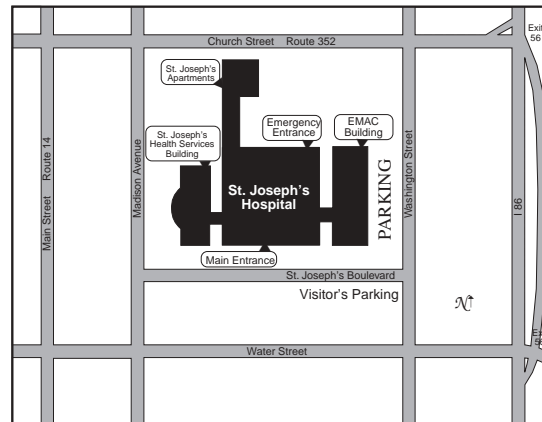
If a patient is unable to sign an informed consent, he/she must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian who can sign the consent after speaking with the radiologist.

If you are diabetic, please let the Department of Medical Imaging Office know.

## Directions and Map

**St. Joseph's** is conveniently located in Elmira, NY just off the Southern Tier Expressway (NY Route 17).

**From Route 17:** Take the Elmira exit (Exit 56). Continue straight on Church Street for three blocks to Washington Street. Turn left onto Washington Street for one block. Then turn right on St. Joseph's Boulevard and proceed to the Visitors Parking Lot.



Helping You Live a Healthy Life

555 St. Joseph's Boulevard • Elmira, NY 14901  
Phone: (607) 733-6541

Revised 10/03

# Intravenous Pyelogram (I.V.P.)

Department  
of  
Medical Imaging



Helping You Live a Healthy Life

555 St. Joseph's Boulevard • Elmira, NY 14901

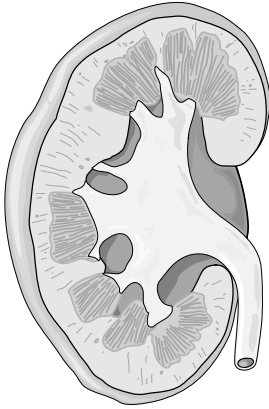
---

## How the Procedure Works

---

Ordinarily, x-rays pass readily through the soft tissues of the body, such as your urinary tract. However, the contrast medium is intended to enable your urinary tract to show up as clearly as your bones do. The contrast will travel through your bloodstream to the kidneys, where it will be concentrated if

the kidneys are functioning properly. The contrast medium then drains through the ureters into the bladder, causing these organs to cast a shadow which is recorded on x-ray film.



- The day before the examination take 2 oz. Castor Oil at 4:00 p.m. Clear fluids are encouraged. Clear fluids are: tea, coffee, apple juice, cranberry juice, and grape juice. No milk or sugar permitted in coffee. No solid food after 10:00 p.m. (A strong bowel action can be expected after Castor Oil is taken.)
- Immediately before starting the exam you will be asked to empty your bladder.

---

## What Happens During an Intravenous Pyelogram

---

- For the examination, you will be asked to wear a hospital gown. You will be asked to remove your undergarments and jewelry because metal buttons, snaps, and elastic will show up in the x-ray films.
- The technologist will take a preliminary x-ray. There will be a short wait while the radiologist examines this x-ray.
- A contrast medium will be injected into a vein, probably in your arm. During this injection, you may feel warm and flushed, and have a unpleasant taste in your mouth. This is a normal sensation to the contrast medium. It will last only a minute or so and is not cause for concern. But do let the technician know if you begin to itch or are otherwise uncomfortable.
- From time to time, you will be asked to remain perfectly still and to hold your breath so that x-rays can be taken.
- Toward the end of the examination, you may be asked to empty your bladder so that a post voiding x-ray can be taken.
- You will be asked to wait while the radiologist examines the x-rays to make sure they contain all necessary information.

---

## After the Exam

---

- The contrast medium will be eliminated through your urine, and should not discolor your urine or stool. You may resume your regular diet immediately after the examination, unless otherwise instructed by your doctor.

---

## Finding Out the Results

---

The radiologist will study your examination and give his or her impression to your physician. This information will be available to your doctor within twenty-four hours of your exam

---

## Something to Remember

---

During the examination, relax and follow instructions. It is particularly important to hold your breath when you are asked.

We ask that you report to the Out-Patient Department, located by the Emergency Department, at least 15 minutes prior to your appointment time. Then proceed to the Department of Medical Imaging to present your registration slip.

The examination itself usually takes one hour. It is wise, though, to allow more time for your entire visit.