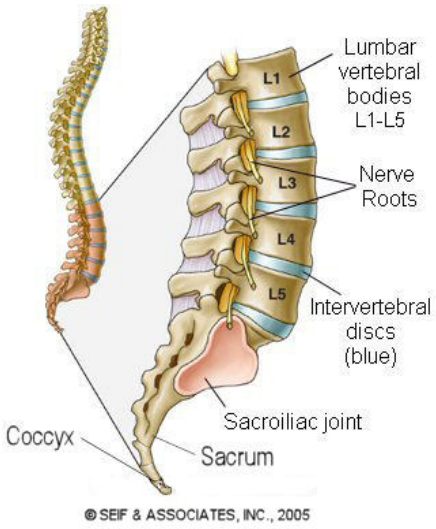
Myelogram

A myelogram is an x-ray test that uses a special dye to look at your back (*spine*) or neck. This test is usually done to look for:

- Back pain.
- Neck pain.
- Arm or leg weakness, numbness.



HOW SHOULD I GET READY FOR THE MYELOGRAM?

Tell your doctor about:

- Any allergies you have, especially to shellfish or iodine.
- Any chance you are pregnant.
- Any seizures you have or have had.
- Any kidney problems you have.
- Any prescription medicine you are taking, especially:
  - Blood thinning medicine like coumadin, heparin, plavix, or aspirin products.
  - Diabetic medication like metformin.
  - Seizure medicine.
  - Antidepressant medicine.

ON THE DAY OF YOUR TEST

- Take your medicine as told by your doctor.
- Eat food and drink fluids as told by your doctor.
- **Do not** drive. Have a family member or friend bring you and take you home.
- You will sign a consent form so the myelogram can be done. Your doctor will talk to you about risks of the myelogram and answer any questions you may have.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING THE MYELOGRAM?

To do the myelogram test:

- You will not be "put to sleep" for this test.
- You may lay on your stomach during the test.
- The doctor will clean the skin on your neck or back. The doctor will then inject a numbing medicine to that area. This may cause some pain when you are numbed.
- The doctor will put a small needle through the skin that was numbed. A special dye will be put into the needle.
- The doctor will take the needle out and put a band aid over the needle stick.
- X-ray pictures will be taken of your neck or back.
- You may also have a CT or MRI scan to get different views of your neck or back.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE MYELOGRAM IS DONE?

- You will be taken to a recovery room area. You will lye down with your head propped up. Your vital signs such as breathing, heart rate and blood pressure will be taken often.
- You may be given something to eat or drink.
- You will go home when your vital signs are normal and your doctor says it is okay to leave.

HOME CARE

- Lay down with your head propped up for the rest of the day.
- Eat food and drink fluid as told by your doctor.
- You may go back to your normal activities such as work or school the next day.

WHEN WILL I FIND OUT THE RESULTS OF THE MYELOGRAM?

- The doctor will tell you your test results when you come to your next clinic appointment.
- If you do not have a clinic appointment scheduled, call to make an appointment. **Do not** assume everything is normal if you have not heard from your doctor. Follow up with your results.

Document Released: 09/26/2009 Document Re-Released: 10/20/2009
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