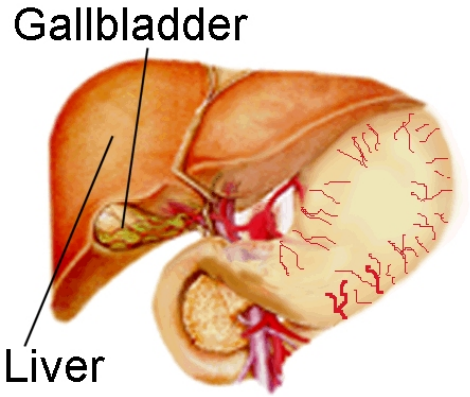
Cholecystogram (Gall Bladder X-ray)

Your caregiver has suggested that you have an x-ray of your gall bladder. Your liver is the organ in your body that produces bile. The bile then goes from the liver to the gallbladder where the bile is stored and concentrated. The bile is then excreted into the small intestine when the bile is needed for digestion. Because the bile is always needed for fat processing, it is the reason you generally will feel a gallbladder attack (abdominal pain with occasional nausea and vomiting) after eating a fatty meal. If a stone blocks the *duct* (tube) leading from the gallbladder to the small intestine, this can cause an inflammation of the gallbladder (*cholecystitis*).



PROCEDURE

- You will be given a low fat diet the night prior to your exam.
- You will be given several capsules to take. These contain a dye (*iodine*) that is excreted by your liver into the gallbladder. This dye outlines the gallbladder when x-ray films are then taken.
- During the procedure you will be given a small glass of liquid to take. This allows your caregiver to see how your gall bladder contracts.
- A specialist in reading x-rays (*radiologist*) can then evaluate the films and give his or her impression to your caregiver.
- Following the test you may go home unless otherwise instructed and resume normal activities and diet as instructed.

Not all test results are available during your visit. If your test results are not back during the visit, make an appointment with your caregiver to find out the results. Do not assume everything is normal if you have not heard from your caregiver or the medical facility. It is important for you to follow up on all of your test results.

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