

# About Your Cisternogram

## *What You Need to Know and Do*

A cisternogram is an exam of the flow of spinal fluid around the spinal cord. A small amount of radioactive material is injected into the spinal fluid. This test helps your doctor diagnose several diseases such as hydrocephalus and cerebrospinal fluid leakage.

### What should I do before my cisternogram?

Talk to your doctor about the medicines you are taking. Aspirin and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like ibuprofen and naproxen are fine to take before your test.

Antiplatelet and anticoagulation medicines should be stopped for a period of time before the cisternogram, as shown below.

14 days before the cisternogram, stop taking:

- ticlopidine (Ticlid)

7 days before, stop taking:

- clopidogrel (Plavix)
- prasugrel (Effient)

5 days before, stop taking:

- warfarin (Coumadin)
- dabigatran (Pradaxa)
- rivaroxaban (Xarelto)
- ticagrelor (Brilinta)
- abciximab (ReoPro)

4 days before, stop taking:

- fondaparinux (Arixtra)

3 days before, stop taking:

- acenocoumarol

2 days before, stop taking:

- apixiban (Eliquis)

24 hours before, stop taking:

- heparin
- LMWH (Fragmin, Lovenox, Normiflo, Orgaran)
- tirofiban (Aggrastat)
- eptifibatide (Integrilin)

4 hours before, stop taking:

- Unfractionated IV

You can start retaking the above medicines 24 hours after your procedure. Unfractionated IV can be restarted 1 hour after the procedure.

### What happens during my test?

- Your skin will be numbed and a special needle will be inserted through your skin and into your spinal canal. Nuclear material will be injected into your spinal canal.
- An image will be taken to make sure the injected material is flowing properly.
- Images will be taken at different times (typically after 1 hour, 4 hours, 6 hours, and occasionally, 24 to 48 hours).
- If the cerebrospinal fluid leaks from your nose or ears, small wads of soft material will be placed into your nasal cavity. This is done to see if any of the nuclear material is present on the wads.

### What happens after my exam?

Your doctor will discuss the test results with you during a follow-up appointment or over the phone.