1. WHAT IS A PERCUTANEOUS NEPHROSTOGRAM?

A percutaneous nephrostogram is a special x-ray procedure that is done to visualize the nephrostomy tube following the injection of contrast media (x-ray dye).
This will confirm the position of the catheter (tube) and assess the drainage of the kidney.
The nephrostomy tube is necessary when there is a blockage in the ureter, obstructing the flow of urine from the kidney to the bladder.

2. DO I NEED TO FOLLOW ANY SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO BE READY FOR A PERCUTANEOUS NEPHROSTOGRAM?

If there is a possibility that you are pregnant, please inform your physician before the procedure, as the procedure may have to be postponed or cancelled.
If you are unable to keep your appointment, please let us know as soon as possible. Should you be admitted to hospital, please inform your physician about your appointment.
There are no diet restrictions for this examination.
If you have had an ultrasound of your abdomen elsewhere, please inform the technologist at the time of the procedure.
If you are taking blood thinners (e.g. Aspirin, Coumadin, arthritis medication), please inform the radiologist before the procedure.

3. WHO WILL PERFORM THE PROCEDURE?

This procedure will be performed by a radiologist (a specialist medical doctor).
An x-ray technologist will assist.

4. WHAT HAPPENS TO ME DURING THE PROCEDURE?

The radiologist and/or technologist will ask you questions about your medical history and allergies.
The procedure will be explained to you, and you will be asked to sign a consent form.
If you are under 16 years old, your parent or guardian must sign the consent form.

These questions are also asked:
- Any previous x-ray dye injection?
- When?  Where?
- Any problems or reactions to previous x-ray dye injections?
- Any known allergies?  Asthma?
- Are you diabetic?  Are you taking Glucophage (metformin)?
- Any kidney or liver disease?

You will be asked to change into a hospital gown for this procedure.
You will be lying on your stomach on an x-ray table. A technique called fluoroscopy will be used to allow the radiologist to watch the x-ray images on a TV monitor.
Contrast media is injected into the nephrostomy tube.
The radiologist and technologist will be available at all times to answer your questions, offer support and assist you as necessary.

5. SHOULD I EXPECT ANY AFTER EFFECTS AS A RESULT OF THIS PROCEDURE?

The contrast media, which is clear, will drain with your urine through the drainage catheter.

Contact your physician or go to the Emergency Department of the hospital nearest you if you develop any of the following:

- if you experience difficulty swallowing or breathing
- if you develop a temperature
- if the urine quits draining through the catheter

6. WHEN AND HOW WILL I KNOW THE RESULTS?

Your physician will receive a written report from the radiologist.

You should obtain the results from your own physician.

If there is any urgency, your physician is more than welcome to contact us by telephone.

If you have any other questions or concerns that have not been answered here, please feel free to ask our staff. We are here for YOU - patient care is our number one priority!