1. **WHAT IS A T-TUBE CHOLANGIOGRAM?**

A t-tube cholangiogram is a special x-ray procedure that is done with contrast media (x-ray dye) to visualize the bile ducts after the removal of the gallbladder. The bile ducts drain bile from the liver into the duodenum (first part of the small bowel). This procedure will visualize any stones remaining in the bile ducts.

2. **DO I NEED TO FOLLOW ANY SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO BE READY FOR A T-TUBE CHOLANGIOGRAM?**

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.

There are no diet restrictions for this examination.

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.

3. **WHO WILL PERFORM THE PROCEDURE?**

The 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 before the procedure. You will be lying on your back on the x-ray table. A technique called fluoroscopy will be used to allow the radiologist to watch x-ray images on a TV monitor. Contrast media (x-ray dye) will be injected through the t-tube into the bile ducts, and x-ray pictures will be taken at this time. After the x-ray pictures have been checked for quality, the radiologist will withdraw the dye out of the bile ducts and the t-tube will be reconnected to the drainage bag.

You will be free to leave the Department if you are feeling well.

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

The contrast media that is left in the bile ducts will drain into the duodenum and be absorbed into your blood, collected by your kidneys and excreted when you urinate. The contrast media will not affect the colour of your urine.

If you develop hives or itching, or experience any difficulty swallowing or breathing, contact your physician or go to the Emergency Department of the hospital nearest you.

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.