

Anorectal physiology study

What does the test involve?

Two tests will be performed: anorectal manometry and endoanal ultrasound. On arrival, the nurse specialist will take a brief health history including asking you questions about your bowel habits, explain what the tests involve, answer any questions you may have and obtain written consent.

Anorectal manometry – you will be asked to undress from the waist down and lie on your left side, covered with a sheet. The investigator will perform a gentle rectal examination to check if the rectum is empty or not and have an idea of the tone and strength of your muscle.

The test involves inserting a small flexible tube rectally and inflating a small balloon; this gives us information about any sensation problems, or weaknesses in your muscles.

Endoanal ultrasound – a finger sized probe is inserted into your back passage and gently moved in and out so that we can take scans (pictures) at different positions in your back passage.

The procedures can be a little bit uncomfortable, but not painful. No anaesthetic or sedation is required. The result of the tests will be sent to the referring consultant who will make a decision about the need for further treatment. This will be communicated to you either by letter, telephone appointment or clinic appointment.

What preparation is required?

There is no special preparation for your test. The whole test should take about one hour and you will be fit to drive afterwards. Please bring a list of your current medication with you.

Where is the test carried out?

Please report to the Louise Ryan Unit on the lower ground floor at the date and time specified in your appointment letter. We aim to see patients on time, and therefore if you are more than 15 minutes late we may not be able to proceed with your test.

Attendance Policy

If you are unable to attend, please contact us as soon as possible (see number below). If you fail to attend without giving advance notice, a further appointment may not be issued and your doctor will be informed of your non-attendance.

Further Information

Anorectal physiology testing is carried out in the Louise Ryan Unit. If you would like to speak to someone personally, please contact us on 020 7830 2923 and the staff in the unit will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to bring a friend or family member with you who may accompany you during the test if you so wish.

Hospital transport

If you need transport for medical reasons, please ring 020 7510 4228 and you will be assessed for suitability.

Please note:

The results of these tests are not wholly accurate with women who are breastfeeding. If you are currently breastfeeding, please contact us as soon as possible to discuss – we may need to cancel your appointment and arrange an alternative date, once you have stopped breastfeeding.

Children are not allowed in during the investigation and we are not able to provide child care.