

Patient Information

CAVERJECT INJECTION

Caverject Injection Into The Penis Before A Scan



Prior To The Procedure

What is Caverject?

Caverject contains a medicine called “prostaglandin E1” (also known as “alprostadil”). When injected into the penis, it produces an erection. This is sometimes required for patients who are having an ultrasound (US) or magnetic resonance (MR) scan of their penis.

How do I prepare for the procedure?

No specific preparation is required. However, on the day of the procedure you need to inform the doctor if you:

1. Have heart disease, sickle cell disease, leukaemia, lymphoma or multiple myeloma.
2. Are taking any drugs which thin the blood (such as warfarin, clopidogrel (Plavix) or aspirin).
3. Are taking any drugs which affect mood (so-called “psychotropics” such as lithium or cocaine).
4. Are taking any medications for high blood pressure.
5. Have ever had an erection which would not go down and required medical treatment (also called a priapism).

Otherwise, please continue to take all of your current medication.

The Day Of The Procedure

What happens during the procedure?

After you get changed, you will meet the radiologist who will be performing the procedure. He/she will explain the procedure to you, and you will have time to ask any questions.

The base of the penis will be cleaned with a cold alcohol wipe and Caverject injected into one side (it does not matter which side is used). The needle is very fine and very short - most patients do not feel it being inserted. After the needle is removed, the area may be massaged to spread the medicine through the penis.

Most patients develop an erection automatically within 30 minutes of the injection. This may not be “full”, but should be sufficient to improve the quality of the scan you are having. Occasionally however, a repeat injection may be required.

Does the procedure hurt?

Most patients do not find the procedure painful. There may be a mild stinging at the injection site.

How long will the procedure take?

The injection only takes a few minutes. The subsequent scan should then take between 30 minutes (for an ultrasound) and one hour (for an MR scan).

Remember:

- You need to inform the radiology doctor if you have any of the medical conditions or are taking any of the medications listed above.

After The Procedure

Potential problems following Caverject Injection

- Your erection should settle over the next few hours. Exercise, such as walking up and down stairs, will help the erection to go down.
Very rarely, the erection does not go down after 4 hours, or becomes painful. If so, you should contact us or go to a hospital immediately, as this will require further treatment. If the radiology department is closed, you should attend an Emergency Department.
Please take this leaflet with you to the hospital.
- A very few patients (less than 1 in 100) experience itching or a rash at the site of injection.
- Occasionally if the penis is scarred, or the foreskin is tight, the erection may be uncomfortable.
- It is very uncommon to have an allergic reaction to Caverject.

What happens to the results?

The US or MR scan will be reported by a radiologist, and the report will be sent to your doctor.

Radiologist to fill in details of the injection below:

DATE:	
TIME:	
DOSE (MCG):	
INJECTION SITE:	
SIGNATURE:	
PRINT NAME:	
GRADE:	
CONTACT No.:	