

Porterbrook Clinic

Sheffield Care Trust

**Andrology Service
(Urology)**

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals

Investigations

The Rigiscan Investigations

Information for Users of our service

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Introduction

Porterbrook clinic is able to offer a number of investigations to try and help both you and us understand the cause of your problems. Two of these tests involve you wearing a device which is attached by either straps or adhesive patches to the penis. The exact nature and choice of the investigation will be discussed with you by your clinician. The Gold standard test, the Rigiscan, has been in use for many years and the clinic has a decade of experience in using and interpreting the results of the Rigiscan. The Rigiscan measures radial rigidity and helps us to assess how hard and firm an erection can become. The NEVA on the other hand measures changes of volume of blood into the penis during states of arousal and provides us with information on the capacity for inflow to the penis. Ultrasound can help identify and quantify the blood flow velocities into the penis (MIDUS). A fourth test, the DIR, measures rigidity of the tip of penis. A fifth test measures nerve conduction associated with sensations (GSA). All of the information collected by the clinic for patients with any investigations are held in a coded format.

The Rigiscan

What is the purpose of this Investigation?

Problems in getting and keeping an erection are commonly seen in specialised clinics like the one you are attending. It is often difficult to determine precisely what the underlying factor or factors are which may be causing your problem. Until recently, doctors have had to base their investigation on asking detailed questions from you and carrying out a physical examination and some basic blood tests. This investigation monitors your response to a combination of stimulation tests within a test laboratory, and you may, as a comparison, also be offered the option of recording your erectile response whilst you are asleep.

What will be involved if I come for the Investigation?

You will be invited to come along to a special session at the Porterbrook Clinic. You will be asked to sit alone in a quiet and comfortable room. You will be asked to partly undress and have a piece of apparatus called the Rigiscan Plus attached to you. This involves two ring detectors being applied to the shaft of your penis. Once you have settled and the apparatus has established a base line reading, you will be given a small injection into the base of your penis. At

this point you will be left alone while the injection works and given some explicit reading material to view for approximately fifteen minutes. You will then be asked to rate any arousal this may have caused and also your perception of the pleasantness of the procedure. If only minimal response is obtained you will be asked to watch an erotic film clip and maybe place a vibrator in position under your penis. If these two tests are inconclusive, you may be offered further tests. One test is to wear the Rigiscan Plus strapped to your leg and penis at home for three consecutive nights whilst you are asleep. The other, is to attend the clinic on another occasion for further studies to be done. Further details will be provided.

Where and when will the test take place?

The first session usually lasts about an hour and a half and takes place at the Porterbrook Clinic in Sheffield. The appointment will be usually on a Wednesday or Thursday.

Will there be any adverse effects from my treatment?

We would hope that you would find each of the stimulation tests to be acceptable. It is not our intention to cause offence or discomfort. Very rarely,

people get a prolonged erection after the injection of the vaso-dilator drug and should this occur, you will be instructed to attend the clinic later that day, (or any other casualty department) so that we can treat you for that specific problem. Please do read this in conjunction with the information leaflet on penile injections and your letter of appointment which give specific details of what you need to take into account before attending for a Rigiscan investigation.

Important notes

Do bring with you any reading, TV glasses and medication you may require. Would you please avoid sexual activity for 24 hours prior to the investigations and take no drug treatment for erection difficulties for three days. Also, do not drink, smoke (or use nicotine patches or gum) within two hours of the tests. Otherwise, do eat and drink as normal and take any normal medication.

