

How long will the procedure take?

The appointment will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

What are the potential risks?

The barium you will drink during the study will pass through your bowels and be seen in your bowel motions (faeces) as a white coloured paste.

The barium can cause constipation, so try to drink plenty of fluid and increase your fibre intake for at least three days following the study to reduce the risk of this occurring. One or two extra glasses of water or clear liquid and one or two extra serves of fruit or vegetables will be of benefit.

If you do not have a bowel movement for more than two days after your exam or are unable to pass gas rectally, call your physician promptly.

You will be able to resume normal activities after the Barium Swallow.

Disclaimer:

The information contained in this brochure is intended as a guide only. If patients require more specific information please contact your referring Doctor

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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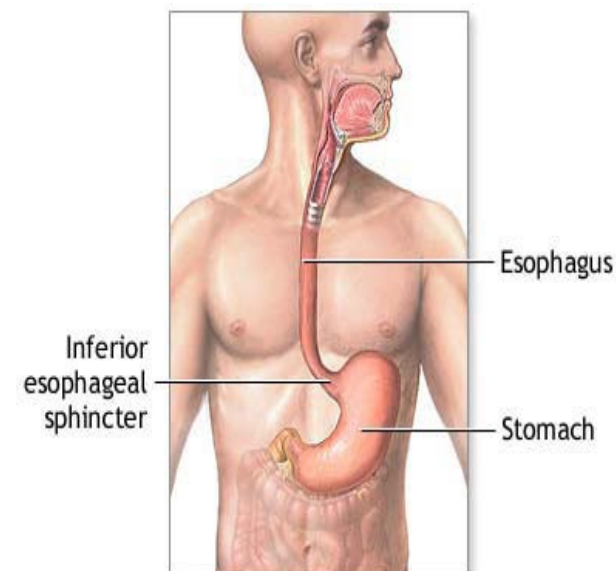
Fax: (03) 5033 9255

Please bring your Medicare card and any Healthcare, Pension or Concession cards if applicable.

If you have any other related previous imaging from another provider please bring them on the day.



Barium Swallow



Medical Imaging Department

What is a Barium Swallow?

A barium swallow test may be done to look for and diagnose problems in the pharynx and oesophagus.

It is a special type of imaging test that uses barium and x-rays to create images of your upper gastrointestinal (GI) tract. Your upper GI tract includes the back of your mouth and throat (pharynx) and your oesophagus.

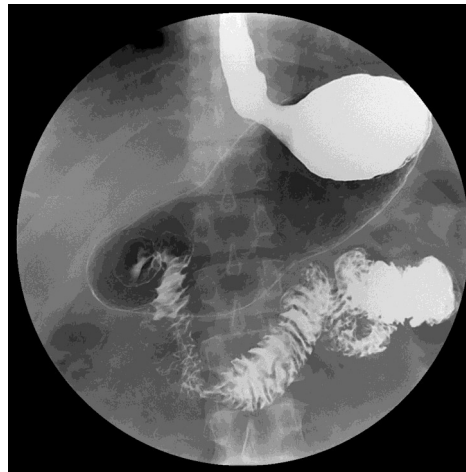
Barium is used during a swallowing test to make certain areas of the body show up more clearly on an x-ray. The radiologist will be able to see size and shape of the pharynx and oesophagus. They will also be able to see how you swallow. These details might not be seen on a standard x-ray. Barium is used only for imaging tests for the GI tract.

The x-ray machine used is called a fluoroscopy machine, which shows the x-ray images as they are being taken so the study can be viewed like a movie on a screen. Barium is used as it outlines the inside of the stomach and small intestine on the x-ray images.

Before the procedure

You should fast from midnight the night before your examination.

If you need to take medication with food, you will need to discuss with your doctor the timing of the medication and Barium Swallow study.



During the procedure

During the procedure you will have an opportunity to ask one of the nursing staff further questions or to speak to the doctor performing the procedure.

For the examination you may be required to change and wear a gown.

You may also be asked to remove jewellery and any other metal objects or clothing that might interfere with the x-ray images.

You will be given a drink of a liquid called barium which shows up on x-ray images. Barium is a thick, slightly chalky feeling liquid with flavouring added to make it easier to drink.

You may be asked to drink a mixture that is fizzy, or two substances. These drinks contain ingredients that cause gas to be produced, which expands your stomach. When the gas is combined with the barium it creates a coating on the inside of your stomach and allows the radiologist to evaluate the stomach anatomy.

Many people feel the urge to burp during this part of the examination.

This procedure is conducted with you standing, however you may also be asked to change position on the table including lying down during the study as the barium moves through the stomach and small intestine.