

Information for Patients having a Barium Meal

Introduction

A Barium Meal uses x-rays to obtain pictures of your oesophagus, stomach, and the duodenum (the first part of the small bowel). The examination is performed by a Radiologist or Radiographer Advanced Practitioner.

Is there any preparation?

- It is very important you carefully follow the preparation instructions on the front of your appointment letter. If you forget any of the preparation, please call the Fluoroscopy department on one of the numbers below as soon as you realise, it may be necessary to re-book your examination.
- Please do not bring anyone requiring supervision with you; only the patient is allowed into the examination room due to the use of X-rays.

What happens during the examination?

- You will be asked to stand on a small step against a special x-ray table.
- You will then be given a thick chalky liquid called Barium to drink which shows up on the x ray images that are taken.
- You may also be asked to swallow some small granules with a little lemon juice which produces gas to outline the stomach.
- During the examination you will be asked to move into various positions so that a series of x-rays can be taken, and the table will be tilted flat so that you are lying down.
- The examination will take approximately 20 minutes, but please be prepared to stay in the department up to one hour.

What happens after the examination?

When the examination is complete you will be given an aftercare sheet to take home with you explaining any side effects and how to get your results.

Are there any side effects?

The barium can cause a little constipation for a day or so after the examination, drinking plenty of fluids can help to avoid this. You may notice that your motions are paler than usual.

How will you get the results?

The Radiology Department will send a report of your examination to the Doctor who requested it.

Further Information

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the Fluoroscopy department using one of the contact methods listed below in the contacts section.

Access to Radiology

How to find us:

To access Radiology for your appointment, please follow signs to Ambulatory Majors (Emergency Department) in front of Carpark G. On entering, turn immediately left and follow signs to the Fluoro/CT/MR Reception located down the green corridor.

Hospital transport:

To enquire about hospital transport telephone 0333 240 4100

Contact details:

Telephone: Fluoroscopy Appointments on 01603 286108; this phone is usually staffed 8am-3pm Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays with an answerphone available at all other times. Please leave a message and your call will be returned within 2 working days.

Alternatively, please call 01603 286103 Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm. Email: fluoro@nnuh.nhs.uk

Website: www.nnuh.nhs.uk

We aim to provide the best care for every patient. So, we would like your feedback on the quality of the care you have received from the Hospital. Please visit:

<http://ratenhs.uk/IQu9vx>



