



Barium Exams Using Fluoroscopy in Radiology

This instruction sheet has been prepared by Faith Regional Health Services. It includes the basic points of your care. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact them at 402-644-7540.

LET YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER KNOW IF YOU ARE PREGNANT OR MAY BE PREGNANT.

A barium exam has been ordered for you by your Health Care Provider. This exam is a series of x-ray pictures taken to evaluate or diagnose a problem in the esophagus, stomach, and the small intestine. This is a good test for detecting blockage or narrowing of your esophagus, ulcer disease in your stomach and small bowel, reflux from your stomach into your esophagus, and many other diseases. A Radiologist (a doctor in the Radiology Department) and a Registered Radiologic Technologist will perform the exam.

What happens during your exam?

Your Registered Radiologic Technologist may start the exam by taking an x-ray. You may also be asked to swallow some gas crystals that will cause a “fizzing action” as you swallow them. This causes air to build up in your stomach. You may feel the need to “burp”. Please try to avoid this. The air created by the “fizzing” will aid in the visualization of your internal organs. As the exam begins, you will then be asked to drink the barium liquid. The barium is a contrast agent that allows the Radiologist to see your intestinal tract. The Radiologist will take several images while you are standing. The x-ray table will move you from an upright/standing position to a horizontal/lying position. The change in position and turning from side to side will aid in coating your stomach and small bowel with the barium which will aid in the diagnosis of any problems or disease. The Radiologist may request several x-rays at the end of the exam. Your comfort and well-being are important so please inform us of any needs you may have during the exam.

Have your Health Care Provider indicate which barium exam you are to be scheduled for.

_____ UGI-Upper GI (includes a BaSw)

- Allow approximately 30-60 minutes for the exam.
- Do NOT have anything to eat or drink for 6 hours prior to exam. Do NOT have anything to eat or drink for 4 hours prior to exam if age 6 and under including babies.
- Upper GI can also be ordered with a Small Bowl Series (SBS).

_____ Small Bowl Series (SBS)

- Allow a minimum of 60 minutes for the exam. **Completion of this exam may take longer for some individuals.**

- Do NOT have anything to eat or drink for 6 hours prior to exam. Do NOT have anything to eat or drink for 4 hours prior to exam if age 6 and under including babies.
- Upper GI can also be ordered with a Small Bowl Series (SBS).

_____ Barium Swallow (BaSw)

- Allow approximately 30 minutes for this exam.
- There are no special instructions for the preparation for this exam.
- Can be scheduled to be done with an Upper GI exam.

_____ Modified Barium Swallow W/Speech

- Allow approximately 30 minutes for this exam.
- There are no special instructions for the preparation for this exam.
- Commonly done for patients with Dysphagia and scheduled with Speech.

Additional Information:

- The procedures are performed at FRHS West Campus Radiology Department.
- Enter the hospital through the main lobby and check in at the admitting desk.
- Check in 15 minutes prior to appointment time.

Date and time of your exam: _____

Check into admitting desk at: _____

After your exam:

You may resume your usual diet, medications and activities after the exam. The barium used for the exam will cause your bowel movements or stools to be light in color for 24 to 72 hours. Drink 4-6 glasses of water a day to aid in the elimination of the barium. Monitor and be aware of the consistency of your stools. Report any problems with constipation immediately to your Health Care Provider.

Results of your test may take 24 to 48 hours to reach your provider and will be discussed with you at your next scheduled office appointment. If you do not have an appointment scheduled and have not heard from your provider, please contact them after 48 hours to set up an appointment to discuss your results.