



Barium Studies Patient Information

Barium Studies

Barium xray studies uses barium (a chalky liquid) to coat the lining of the gastro-intestinal system looking for pathology. Xrays are taken at different intervals and after different time frames depending on what part of the system we are looking at.

Fluoroscopy or 'screening' is often used which allows the Radiologist (the imaging doctor) to view the barium inside of you in 'real-time' on a TV monitor.

Please notify your doctor and the staff at Sound Diagnostic Radiology if you are pregnant or you think you could be pregnant.

Common Barium Examinations

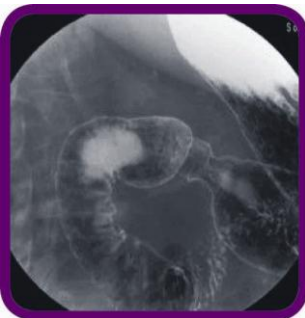
Barium Swallow – to look at your mouth and oesophagus and the dynamics of you swallowing

Barium Meal – to view the oesophagus, stomach and duodenum (the first part of the small bowel)

Barium Follow Through – this is to assess the whole of the small intestine from stomach to colon

Barium Enema – a barium examination of the large bowel

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Preparation

Examination	Preparation	Procedure	Time Taken
Barium Swallow	4 hour fast from food and fluids	You will be asked to drink the barium with a number of pictures taken. Most of the images are taken standing up	Up to 30 minutes
Barium Meal	6 hour fast from food and fluids	You will be asked to drink some fizzy fluid followed by a drink of barium liquid. Pictures are usually taken lying on our table and you are asked to roll into different positions.	Up to 30 minutes
Barium Follow Through	6 hour fast from food and fluids	Barium liquid is given to drink and xray images are taken of your abdomen in 15 – 30 minute intervals until the barium reaches your colon.	2 – 4 hours
Barium Enema	Bowel Preparation Kit (available from us or your chemist) this will be discussed at the time of the booking	Barium liquid is placed into the colon via a small tube in the rectum (back passage). Air is also used to help highlight the bowel. Xrays are taken in different positions, mainly lying down. Once all the images are taken, you can then go to the toilet.	Up to 1 hour

please note that times and preparation may vary depending on what has been requested by your doctor and how long it takes for the bowel to move through your system

What to expect

All barium studies will require you to change into a gown, this makes sure that no metal or seams appear on your xray image. Most barium studies are performed with you lying on an xray table.

The Radiologist will come in to discuss the procedure and 'screen' your abdomen after you have had the barium administered.

Depending on the examination requested, there may be time delays between xray images being taken. We will keep you warm and comfortable during these breaks, you will also be able to read the paper or magazines in this time.

Once all the images have been taken, you are able to dress and go home. Having a support person to drive you home after a barium enema is advisable.

What to bring

You must always bring your request form from your doctor. Please note that we accept all radiology request forms. If you have any previous xrays at home that may be relevant to your examination, please bring these with you, they can sometimes help to give a more accurate assessment of your presenting condition. Always bring your Medicare card and any other concession cards.

When will I get the report?

Your report will be delivered to your referring practitioner and will be there by lunch on the following business day. If you require your results any earlier, please advise our reception staff and we will ensure they are ready for you.

After care instructions

Barium is quite a dense, chalky liquid. It is advised that you drink plenty of fluids for 24 – 48 hours following any barium procedure to prevent constipation. It is not abnormal to experience lighter coloured stools post a barium study, due to the white colour of the liquid.

Please seek the opinion from your referring doctor if you have any concerns.

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You will be required to
pay for your appointment
on the day.

For more information about
Sound Diagnostic Radiology
please visit our website:
sounddiagnostics.com.au