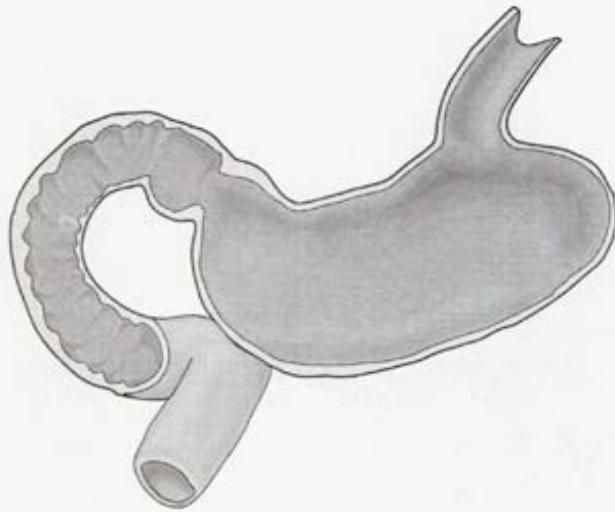


Important

If you are or might be pregnant, you should inform your own doctor. You should also bring this to the attention of the radiologist and x-ray technologist.

Patients on medication may take their pills with a very small amount of water.

If you are a diabetic, please let the Department of Medical Imaging Office know.



This x-ray examination of your esophagus and stomach will be done by a radiologist, who is a physician specializing in medical diagnosis by x-ray, and a technologist, who is an expert in the use of x-ray equipment.



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Upper Gastrointestinal Series

DEPARTMENT
OF
MEDICAL IMAGING

St. Joseph's
Dedicated to Medical Excellence.

How Upper Gastrointestinal Works

Ordinarily, x-rays pass readily through the soft tissues of the body, such as your upper digestive tract. However, the barium enables your esophagus, stomach and small intestines to show up as clearly as your bones do. As the barium coats the wall of your esophagus, stomach, and small bowel, it blocks the x-ray and casts a shadow that is displayed on the fluoroscope - a kind of T.V. screen — and recorded on x-ray film.

- The day before your exam, you will not be permitted to eat any solid foods after the evening meal. Clear liquids are permitted until 12 o'clock midnight (e.g. apple juice, tea, clear soup). After midnight you may have NOTHING by mouth — (EXCEPTION — may take medication with as little water as possible)
- For this examination, you will be asked to wear a hospital gown. You will be asked to remove your undergarments and jewelry because metal buttons, snaps and elastic will show up on the x-ray films.
- You may be asked to swallow a teaspoon of gas producing crystals that will aid in allowing your stomach to show up on the x-ray film.

- Then you will be positioned standing in front of a fluoroscope, and the technologist will hand you a glass of barium. The radiologist will direct you in drinking the barium while he/she watches on the fluoroscope to see the barium flow through your esophagus.
- From time to time, you will be asked to remain perfectly still and to hold your breath so that x-rays can be taken. You will hear snapping and sliding sounds from the film cassette moving into place.
- If your doctor has ordered a Small Bowel Series along with the Upper GI Series, you will be given more barium to drink and additional films will be taken at timed intervals, until the barium has passed through your small bowel.
- You will then be asked to wait while the radiologist examines the x-rays to make sure they contain all the necessary information. Occasionally, more x-rays may be needed.

After the Exam

Don't be alarmed if you find some white material in your stools for a few days after the exam. This is merely the remaining barium.

If you are prone to constipation, you may wish to drink additional fluids to aid in the elimination of the barium from your bowels.

You may resume your regular diet immediately after the examination, unless otherwise instructed by your doctor.

Finding Out the Results

The radiologist will study your examination and give his or her impression to your physician. This information will be available to your doctor within twenty-four hours of your exam.

Something to Remember

Your stomach must be empty and relaxed. It is particularly important to hold your breath when you are asked to.

We ask that you report to the Out-Patient Department, located by the E.R. Department, at least 15 minutes prior to the appointment time. Then proceed to the Department of Medical Imaging to present your registration slip.

The examination itself usually takes one hour, except for a small bowel examination which may take four hours or longer. It is wise, though, to allow more time for your entire visit.