

A Barium Swallow / Meal study will produce a series of x-ray images of the upper digestive tract to help in the diagnosis of digestive problems.

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Barium Swallow / Meal

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A Barium Swallow demonstrates the oesophagus while a Barium Meal is performed to examine the stomach, duodenum and small bowel. It involves drinking a mixture of liquid barium which temporarily coats the digestive tract so it is visible on x-ray images.

Preparation

Please follow the instructions you receive when you make your appointment, which includes a period of fasting (ie no eating, drinking or smoking) for 12 hours.

Please let us know if you have diabetes, glaucoma, heart disease or any other serious illness. Please advise staff if you are or could be pregnant or breast feeding.

Please bring any relevant films and your referral to your appointment.

To ensure that we are providing you with the best service, at any stage of the examination if you have any questions or concerns, please ask our staff.

We also welcome any feedback.

When you come for the test:

At the time of the procedure you will be asked to drink a cup of chalky liquid containing Barium. This liquid temporarily coats the lining of the digestive tract so that it shows up clearly on the x-rays. You may also be given small quantities of a mixture which produces gas. This gas helps to make the picture clearer. The radiologist will ask you to lie in several different positions and to hold your breath while the x-rays are taken.

The examination usually takes about 30 minutes. After the procedure the films will be developed and then reported by the Radiologist. The report and films should then be taken to your own doctor.

It is important to drink a lot of fluid for the next 24 hours and return to your normal diet.

Canberra Imaging Group strongly advise that you return to your referring doctor in order for your doctor to discuss your radiology report with you.