

A Barium Enema examination will produce a series of x-ray images of the large bowel (the colon) and helps in the diagnosis of bowel problems.

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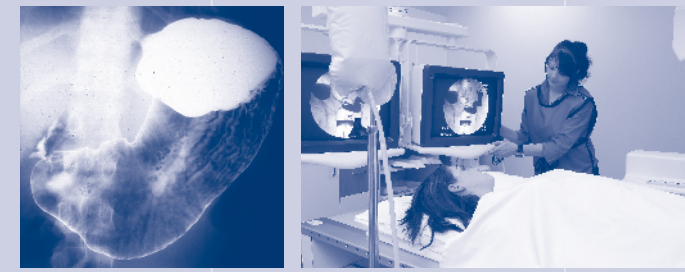
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Barium Enema

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A Barium Enema is performed to examine the walls of the colon and is used to detect polyps, inflammation and structural changes in the large intestine. A mixture of liquid barium and air is passed into the bowel and this temporarily coats the lining so it can be visible on the x-ray images.

Preparation

For good results it is necessary to clear the bowel before the examination. This requires a special diet and also a preparation which will produce diarrhoea. You should take this preparation 48 hours before the test. You may have to make several visits to the toilet during the following hours. This is normal and necessary.

Please follow the instructions you receive when you make your appointment. 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

During the procedure you will lie on the x-ray table and a small lubricated tube will be placed into the bowel opening. Fluid and air will run into your bowel via the tube from a bag above the bed. You may feel some discomfort and fullness but the procedure is not painful. The radiologist will ask you to lie in several different positions and to hold your breath while the x-rays are taken. You may also need a small injection to relax the bowel to produce clearer pictures.

As soon as the films have been taken you will be able to go to the toilet. Some of the fluid and air may take a few hours to pass, this should be remembered if you have to travel any distance afterwards or if you have difficulty with bowel control. It is important to drink a lot of fluid for the next 24 hours and return to your normal diet.

The examination usually takes about 30 minutes. After the procedure the films will be developed and then reported by a specialist. This may take a further 20 to 30 minutes so you may prefer to return later for your results. The report and films should then be taken to your own doctor.

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