

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

### The Procedure

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.

The examination usually takes about 45 minutes.

### 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.

### When you come for the test

During the procedure you will lie on the x-ray table or be transferred onto a trolley 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 should not be 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. This may cause blurry vision for up to an hour, which may require you to wait at CIG until your vision returns to normal (especially if you are driving).

As soon as the films have been taken and checked, 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.

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.



### Appointment

Please phone or SMS our friendly booking service on **1300 788 508** or request an appointment online [www.canberraimaging.com.au](http://www.canberraimaging.com.au)

### What to bring

Please bring the following items with you to your appointment:

- Your referral
- Any relevant films
- Medicare card
- Pension / Health Care card

### Your results

Your doctor will receive fast and convenient electronic access to your reports and images. Canberra Imaging Group strongly advise that you return to your referring doctor in order for your doctor to discuss your results with you.