

Barium Swallow / Meal

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET

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

Barium Swallow / Meal

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 (i.e. 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.

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.

You may also need a small injection to relax the stomach to produce clearer pictures. This may cause blurry vision for up to 10 minutes which may require you to wait at CIG until your vision returns to normal (especially if you are driving).

The examination usually takes about 30 minutes.

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

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.