



How to prepare for a Barium Swallow/Upper G.I. series?

For Adults (12 years and older): Nothing to eat or drink for 12 hours prior to the examination.

For Children (2-12 years): No morning meal the day of the examination.

For Newborn to 2 years: Nothing to eat or drink 3 hours prior to examination.

Children with diabetes should fast 2 hrs prior to the examination.

What is a Barium Swallow/Upper G.I. Series?

A Barium Swallow is an x-ray that takes pictures of the passage from the mouth to the stomach (pharynx and the esophagus).

A Gastrointestinal Series (G.I.) is an x-ray examination of your esophagus (the passage from the mouth to the stomach), the stomach and the duodenum (the first part of your intestine).

What will happen During a Barium Swallow/Upper G.I. Series?

You will be instructed to change into a hospital gown. Remove neck chains and earrings.

You will be given a barium sulfate mixture to drink. Under fluoroscopic x-ray control you will be moved in various positions and at times will be asked to hold your breath. You may be asked to stand, sit or lie on the x-ray table. You may also be asked to swallow some tiny gas forming crystals to better outline your stomach.

The test may also include an examination of the esophagus and for this part you will be given a thick paste to swallow.

The examination may take approximately 45 minutes.

What will happen after the Barium Swallow/Upper G.I. Series?

It is recommended that you increase your water/clear fluid intake over the next few days as barium can be constipating.

The radiologist will send the report to your physician. The results will be given to you by your physician.