

BARIUM SWALLOW

APPOINTMENT:



___/___/___ @ ___:___ am/pm
Re-schedule/cancellations:
308.995.3305

Please arrive at the hospital 15 minutes prior to your appointment to check in.

What is a Barium Swallow?

A barium swallow is a test that may be used to determine the cause of painful swallowing, difficulty with swallowing, abdominal pain, bloodstained vomit, or unexplained weight loss.

Duration: Approximately 30 minutes

Procedure

1. You will receive a form requesting your consent to perform the test. You should make sure that you understand the form & agree with it before signing.
2. You may be asked to eat a low-fiber diet for 2-3 days before the barium swallow test. You will be asked not to smoke after midnight before the exam.
3. You will wear a hospital gown and be asked to remove all jewelry, dentures, hair clips, or other objects that might show up on an x-ray.
4. You will drink about 1 1/2 cups of a barium preparation; a chalky drink with the consistency of a milk shake.
5. You will begin by standing on a table that tilts. X-rays will be taken as the barium moves through the digestive system.
6. As the barium moves down your digestive system, the table will be tilted at various angles to help spread the barium for different views. Pressure may be applied to your abdomen to spread the barium. Finally, you will be placed horizontally, asked to take a few more swallows and X-rayed again.

When you return home you can resume your normal diet unless you are advised otherwise by your doctor. Because the barium is white, your stools will be chalky & light-colored for 1-3 days.

Contact our Imaging Department with any questions:

308.995.2890

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