



**GREATER LANSING**

## **BARIUM ENEMA**

The purpose of this x-ray is to study your colon using barium, a white liquid that permits a visualization of the colon so it may be viewed on an x-ray film. A barium enema examination assists your doctor in making a diagnosis. The radiologist interprets the information from the procedure and reports it to your doctor, who in turn will discuss the report with you.

Most of the time, a barium enema is an outpatient procedure. If you know that you have an allergy (of any kind), tell your doctor prior to the examination. If you are taking prescription medications, be sure to tell your doctor. Also, if you are a woman of childbearing age and there is a possibility that you may be pregnant, be sure to tell your doctor this information, as well.

**The preparation for this exam starts the day before at 12 noon. Be sure to pick up your prep kit in Radiology prior to that time.**

**PLEASE BRING ANY PREVIOUS X-RAYS RELATED TO YOUR EXAM WITH YOU TO YOUR APPOINTMENT.**

A barium enema may take longer than most other procedures, approximately 30 to 45 minutes. If you feel ill, please ask for assistance. Generally, a barium enema procedure follows this process:

- A radiologist will perform the exam using a machine called a fluoroscope.
- The technologist will insert a rectal tube. This allows the barium to flow into your colon in the same manner any enema would be given. Air may be or may not be administered also. You may feel cramping and full in your abdomen. Slow, deep breaths will help you to relax. During the exam, the machine and x-ray table will move and you will be asked to roll in various positions.
- After the fluoroscopic exam, additional radiographs will be taken to complete the exam. After the films have been reviewed by the radiologist, you will be sent to the bathroom to expel the barium and air. Another film will be taken after you have gone to the bathroom.

At home, you may return to your normal diet - as directed by your physician. The barium should pass normally from your colon, although your physician may prescribe a laxative to ease the passage. If you do not have a bowel movement within three days, please call your doctor.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your procedure, please call us at 975-6382.

If you need to reschedule your appointment, please call our central scheduling office at 975-2695.