



GREATER LANSING

## SMALL BOWEL SERIES

A small bowel series is an examination of the bowel that connects the stomach to the large bowel or colon. It is sometimes done along with an UGI series. The radiologist will interpret your exam and send a report to your doctor. Your doctor can then discuss the results with you.

Many times a small bowel is an outpatient procedure. If you are a woman of child bearing age and there is a chance you could be pregnant, be sure to inform your doctor or the technologist prior to your exam. The length of the exam varies from person to person. It can take anywhere from 2-8 hours. You may want to bring a book to read or other materials to pass the time.

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

### GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR SMALL BOWEL PROCEDURE:

- You may have nothing to eat, drink, smoke or chew at least 8 hours before your exam.
- You will be asked to wear a hospital gown.
- A preliminary x-ray of your abdomen will be taken.
- You will then be instructed to drink 2 cups of barium. If you are also having an UGI, you will drink another cup after your UGI films. The barium coats the walls of the small bowel to let us see them under the x-ray.
- X-ray films will then be taken at specific times as the barium travels through the small bowel until it reaches the large bowel or colon. Remember: Everyone is different. It may take several hours.
- Once the barium reaches the large bowel or colon, the exam is completed.
- You will need to drink plenty of fluids over the next couple of days to flush the barium out of your system. Some patients also like to take a mild laxative. You may see a white chalky substance in your stool for a day or two. Do not be alarmed, the barium is the white color.
- If you need to reschedule your appointment, please call our central scheduling office at 975-2695.
- If you have any questions or concerns regarding your procedure, please call us at 975-6382.