



UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL (GI) SERIES

An upper GI series is an x-ray examination of the esophagus and stomach, using barium to coat the stomach wall so it may be examined under x-ray. An upper GI 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, an upper GI is an outpatient procedure, although it may be a part of your inpatient care. 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 possibility that you may be pregnant, be sure to tell your doctor this information, as well. PLEASE BRING ANY PREVIOUS X-RAYS RELATED TO YOUR EXAM WITH YOU TO YOUR APPOINTMENT.

Generally, an upper GI procedure follows this process:

- You must not eat or drink anything after midnight or on the morning before the x-rays.
- You will be asked to wear a hospital gown.
- A preliminary film of your abdomen will be taken.
- You will be positioned behind a piece of equipment called a fluoroscope.
- A cup containing liquid barium will be given to you to drink, followed by baking soda crystals that will create gas in your stomach. It is important not to belch, as the gas assists the doctor in evaluating your stomach. You will be asked to move in different positions and to hold your breath so x-rays can be taken. Some films are performed lying down and some standing.
- After the radiologist has taken x-rays of selected areas, x-rays of your entire upper digestive tract may be taken with another piece of equipment.
- You will be asked to wait while the radiologist reviews the films to make sure they contain all the necessary information, and that no more films are required.

At home, you may resume your regular diet unless your doctor tells you otherwise. It may be beneficial to take a laxative and drink plenty of fluids after the exam. The barium may color your stools slightly whitish for a day or two.

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.

