



PATIENT INFORMATION

X-RAY PROCEDURES Barium Meal and/or Swallow

What is it? This examination provides information about the first part of the digestive system – the oesophagus, stomach and the first part of the small bowel.

What does it involve? During the examination, the patient will be asked to swallow some liquid barium. To leave a coating on the inside of the oesophagus and stomach. X-rays will be taken to demonstrate the function of these organs. Sometimes a video is used to record the swallowing part of the examination. The sphincters at both the opening into, and exit from, the stomach are evaluated for competency.

How long will it take? This examination takes approximately 30 minutes.

Is there any preparation? Nothing to eat or drink for 6 hours before your appointment time.

Aftercare: You can eat and drink normally afterwards. Drink plenty of fluid to help the barium wash through your system.