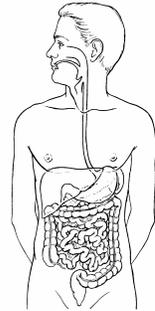


UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL (GI) SERIES

Patient Education

What is the purpose of this test?

The upper gastrointestinal tract consists of the esophagus, stomach, and small intestine. The process of digestion begins in the mouth where food mixes with saliva. Further digestion takes place in the stomach as partially digested food, saliva, and gastric juices are mixed. Digestion is completed in the small intestine and absorption of nutrients begins. Your physician may order a GI series to look for ulcers, reflux, tumors, or signs of other medical conditions.



How should I prepare for this test?

You will be instructed not to eat or drink anything after midnight the day before your exam is to be performed. You should not take morning medications that are pill form. Bring your medications with you, and you may take them as soon as your exam is finished.

How will this test affect me?

A GI series is a painless procedure. You will be asked to swallow barium, which is a liquid contrast that will allow the radiologist to visualize the upper gastrointestinal tract. When the test is complete, drink plenty of liquids for the next 24 hours, and you may want to take a mild laxative to eliminate the barium from your colon.

How is the test performed?

A radiology technologist will take you to the x-ray exam room. You will be asked to put on a gown and remove jewelry from the neck. The technologist will ask you some questions regarding your medical history and previous surgery. The test will begin with you standing in the x-ray unit, drinking a glass of barium, and then the x-ray table position will be changed so that you are lying on your back. You may be asked to drink water and additional barium. The radiologist will be observing the travel of the barium through the GI tract. The GI series will take approximately 30 minutes. If your doctor has also ordered a small bowel series, you will be asked to drink one extra cup of barium and have a series of x-rays. The small bowel series could take up to two hours, depending on how long it takes the barium to get to the large bowel.

How will I receive results of the test?

Results will be sent to your physician who will discuss the results with you.

CONTACT YOUR PHYSICIAN FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS