

Esophagram

Test Name:	Esophagram [also known as a Barium Swallow Exam]
Description:	This procedure uses a contrast agent called Barium to obtain images of your esophagus while you swallow.
How to Prepare:	Nothing to eat, drink, or any medication 8 hours prior to exam.
Where & When to Report:	Report to the Medical Imaging Department Registration at least 15 minutes prior to scheduled exam time.
How long will the test take?:	The average length of the exam is 30 minutes
What to expect during the test?:	A preliminary x-ray will be taken of your esophagus. The exam will start by standing up the x-ray table and the Radiologist will instruct you to drink barium under Fluoroscopy [also known as 'Live x-ray']. There will be two different consistencies of barium one will be thicker and one will be thinner. The Radiologist may give you gas forming crystals which allows your esophagus to expand and enhance the visualization, it will be important to not burp. You may be asked to swallow a barium tablet which can help to visualize certain structural problems of the esophagus. The x-ray table will be laid flat and you will be asked to change positions at different times throughout the rest of the procedure.



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What to expect after the test?:

Barium can cause constipation. It is normal to have whitish colored stools for 24-48 following the exam. You should increase fluid intake for 24 – 48 hours after the exam to help eliminate the Barium.

If you have any questions about the test:

Call the Radiology Dept at:
315.338.7390

Hours:
7:00am – 5:00pm | Monday - Friday