

Radiology

Paediatric Barium Studies

You have been advised by your doctor that your child needs to have a barium study. You have been referred to radiology to have this procedure.

This leaflet will explain what the examination involves. It may not answer all your questions, so if you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to call the telephone number on your appointment letter or contact the Radiology team on 024 7696 7115.

If you feel unhappy with any part of your care, please ask to speak to a senior member of staff.

Please read this leaflet carefully to ensure you successfully prepare for your examination. You will need to begin the preparation for your child's examination 2 – 4 hours before the appointment depending on the age of your child

Points to Remember

- If your child is on medication from your doctor, please continue to take it as normal.
- You may wish to bring a few toys with you for your child to play with whilst they are waiting and during the procedure.
- We welcome parents and both parents can be present for the procedure. One parent may wear a lead gown and be next to the child during the



Patient Information

procedure.

What is a barium study?

A barium study is a special x-ray examination of the food pipe, stomach and small intestine. The examination will be performed by a radiologist (X-ray doctor) who may be assisted by a radiographer and a radiology department assistant. The procedure may likely take half an hour but may take a little longer, we suggest you keep your afternoon free.

Preparation

For young children, please do not allow your child to eat or drink anything for **2 hours before** the appointment.

If your child is aged 11 years or above, please do not allow them to eat or drink for **4 hours before** the appointment.

Risks/benefits of the procedure

X-rays are a type of radiation. We are all exposed to natural background radiation every day of our lives. This comes from the sun, the food we eat, and the ground.

Exposure to X-rays carries a small risk, but your doctor feels that this risk is outweighed by the benefits of having the test. We will take all the safety precautions to minimise the number of X-rays your child receives. The barium study is likely to expose your child to the same radiation dose as a transatlantic flight.

Safety

Patients aged 12 years and older: The appointment date must be within the first 10 days of the start of the menstrual cycle.

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Please contact the X-ray Department to rearrange the appointment if this is not the case. When you attend, the patient will be asked to confirm when their period started which needs to be within the last 10 days. If they don't yet have periods, please keep the appointment date.

Parents and Carers – if you are under the age of 55 years, could you be pregnant?

The risks of radiation are slightly higher for your unborn child. You will be asked to confirm that you are not pregnant before the examination can proceed.

What will happen when we arrive?

- When you arrive at the Radiology - X-ray Department, please follow the signs for Route 2: Fluoroscopy and Intervention and report to the reception desk. You will be registered and then directed to the reception waiting area.
- Your child can wear their normal clothes. We may ask your child to remove or lift any clothing with metal on it.

During the examination

You will be taken into the X-ray room. Here, the examination will be explained to you both and you can ask any questions that you may have.

Barium Study:

- Your child will either be fed or asked to swallow a barium and water mixture (this is a white fluid which shows up clearly on X-rays). We usually mix this with a milkshake powder to make it more palatable. This can be given through a feeding bottle for babies, a feeding cup if the child normally uses one or in a plastic cup with a straw for older children. For younger children, it is helpful to bring a spare bottle or cup that the child likes.
- Depending on the age of your child, X-ray pictures may be taken with your child standing or lying following the barium as it passes through their food pipe, stomach and intestine.

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After the examination

- Once the examination is complete your child may go home or return to school.
- Your child should drink plenty of fluids over the next few hours to help the barium pass through the intestinal tract.
- Your child's stool may be pale over the next few days. This is nothing to worry about and just the barium passing through.
- If there are any problems after the examination, please see your GP.

How do we get the results?

The results may not be given to you immediately, but a report of the study will be sent to the doctor who referred you to us for this examination.

Other Sources of Information

For information about the effects of X-rays and information about radiology departments visit the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/X-ray/>

Please note that the views expressed in these websites do not necessarily reflect the views of UHCW NHS Trust.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact the telephone number on your appointment letter or 024 7696 7115 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

Patient Information

Did we get it right?

We would like you to tell us what you think about Fluoroscopy services.

This helps us make improvements.

Have your say. Scan the QR code or visit:

<http://ratenhs.uk/cX4Zmj>

www.uhcw.nhs.uk/contact-us



Document History

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