

Diagnostic Fluoroscopy Patient Information

Upper GI w/ Small Bowel Follow Through

Welcome to VCU Health Diagnostic Imaging. We are located in the Main Hospital 3rd floor, 1200 East Marshall Street. Our hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. Advanced scheduling is required for all diagnostic fluoroscopy exams. Please review the following information about your test. Please call (804) 628-3580 to schedule your test or if you have any questions about your diagnostic fluoroscopy exam.

What is it?

Imaging of the upper gastrointestinal tract.

Why are you having this test?

You are having this study to establish presence or absence, nature or extent of disease affecting upper gastrointestinal tract. Imaging from Upper GI studies can reveal abnormalities related to:

- Abdominal pain
- Ulcers or tumors
- Uncontrolled vomiting
- Unexplained blood in stool
- Gastrointestinal leaks post operational
- Small Bowel Obstruction

Preparing for the test

- No food or drink except clear liquids 8 hours prior to exam
- Bring a picture ID and insurance information
- Bring current list of medications (including over the counter, herbal, vitamins, supplements, etc.) and current allergies
- Please arrive 30 minutes before your appointment time

What to expect during the test

- This study will take about 2-8 hours
- You will change in to a hospital gown
- An abdominal x-ray will be obtained
- You will be standing if possible and laying down on a fluoroscopy table, moving in different positions and drinking a contrast agent while the radiologist is taking images using fluoroscopy x-ray equipment.
- A series a x-ray images or fluoroscopy images will be taken periodically while the contrast moves throughout your small intestine

After Care information

- You may resume normal activity, eating and drinking after exam unless otherwise specified by your physician.
- The Barium contrast can turn your stool a gray or white color for 48 – 72 hours. It may also cause constipation.
- Unless fluids are restricted by the doctor, the patient should drink fluids (more than normal) to help the contrast move out of their system.

Contact information if questions or concerns

- Any questions: please contact us at (804) 828-5500 and ask for a radiology technologist. If After hours, please call (804) 828-3699.

Follow-Up Care after the procedure

- Results will be available 1-2 business days on the patient portal and to your ordering physician. For results, please contact ordering physician.

