

## Patient Information Sheet

### Upper G.I. Series/ Barium Swallow

#### **What is a G.I. Series/Barium Swallow?**

An Upper G.I. (gastrointestinal) Series is a special x-ray examination of your esophagus (tube from your mouth to your stomach), your stomach and the duodenum (the first part of your small bowel).

An examination limited to your esophagus is called a Barium Swallow.

#### **What special instructions do I need to follow to be ready for my examination?**

In order to best see your stomach and small bowel, it must be empty. You must not eat or drink after midnight on the night before your examination.

If there is any possibility you might be pregnant, please inform your Health Care Provider before the procedure, as the procedure may have to be postponed, cancelled, or investigated in another way.

If you are unable to keep your appointment, please let us know as soon as possible. Should you be admitted to hospital, please inform your Health Care Provider about your appointment.

Please do not use perfume or other scented products on the day of your study.

#### **Who will perform my examination?**

This examination will be performed by a Radiologist (X-Ray). A medical radiation technologist specializing in x-ray imaging will assist.

#### **What happens to me during my examination?**

You will need to change into a hospital gown for this examination. Once in the x-ray room, the technologist will briefly explain the procedure to you. If you have any allergies, please let the technologist know.

The radiologist will sit behind a window where the equipment controls are located. S/he will use a microphone to give you important instructions to follow. You will be asked to swallow some gas-forming granules with some water, then some barium (a thick liquid that shows up white on x-ray pictures). Try not to burp as it is very important to keep gas in your stomach.

You will be asked to lie or stand in different ways. The radiologist will take x-ray pictures of the areas of interest.

After the x-ray procedure is completed, you will be able to leave the department. In total, you can expect your examination to take about 20 minutes.

#### **Should I expect any after effects as a result of my examination?**

There should be no after effects from the examination. You may immediately return to your normal diet. You are encouraged to drink at least eight glasses of water a day for the next two days to allow the barium to pass through your bowel more easily. If you are on a fluid restricted diet, discuss this with your Health Care Provider.

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### **When and how will I know the results?**

Your Health Care Provider will usually have a written report from the Radiologist within one week of your examination. You should obtain the results from your own Health Care Provider. If there is any urgency, your Health Care Provider is more than welcome to contact the Diagnostic Imaging Department by telephone.

If you have any questions or concerns that have not been answered here, please feel free to ask the Diagnostic Imaging staff involved in your examination.