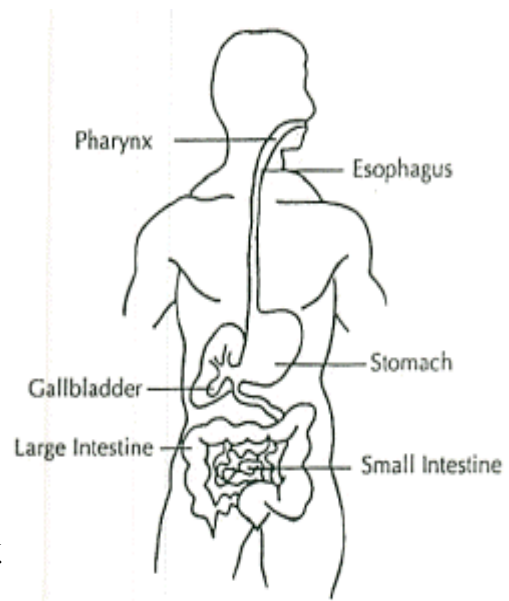


Your Upper G.I. Series

WHAT IS AN UPPER GI SERIES AND WHAT DOES IT SHOW?

An Upper G.I. Series is an x-ray of your esophagus (swallowing tube) and your stomach. These parts of your body cannot be seen well on regular x-rays without the use of a substance called barium. Barium is a white or pink liquid that coats the esophagus and stomach as you drink it so these body parts can be seen on x-ray.



WHY AM I HAVING AN UPPER G.I. SERIES?

Your doctor has scheduled you for an Upper G.I. Series because you have some symptom that may be related to your stomach or esophagus. This might be abdominal or chest pain, indigestion, vomiting, or trouble swallowing. This x-ray gives your doctor information that may help in your diagnosis and treatment. Please let someone know if you may be pregnant; x-rays may harm an unborn child.

HOW DO I GET READY FOR MY UPPER G.I. SERIES?

You should not eat, drink, or smoke after midnight until the x-ray is completed.

If you have had a barium x-ray of any kind within 4 days before this Upper G.I. Series, you will need to take a laxative to get rid of the old barium. The stomach and small bowel must be empty to get clear pictures.

If you are not a patient in the hospital, we recommend you take four Dulcolax[®] tablets around 2:00 p.m the day before the x-ray. You can buy these tablets at any drug store without a prescription. If you are already in the hospital, your doctor will order a laxative for you.

You may want to bring something to read or handwork to do while you wait.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE X-RAY ROOM?

You will be asked to put on a hospital gown and remove any necklaces.

You will be helped onto a special x-ray table. The x-ray staff and doctor will explain more about your Upper G.I. Series. They can answer any questions you have.

If you are able, the first x-rays will be taken while you stand. You will be given a cup of barium to drink while the pictures are taken. The barium is flavored and chalky.

You will be asked to move into different positions. For some pictures, the x-ray table will be moved so that you are lying down. When each x-ray is taken you will be asked to hold your breath and remain as still as possible.

Sometimes part of the x-ray machine may press on your abdomen to get better pictures. Tell someone if this is uncomfortable. We want to make you as comfortable as possible.

The doctor may need to look at your small intestine (small bowel). This is called a Small Bowel Series. You will be given 2-3 more cups of barium to drink. Pictures will be taken every 30 minutes until the entire small bowel (about 20 feet) is filled with barium. You will wait and sip barium in the waiting area between picture taking.

IS EVERY UPPER G.I. SERIES THE SAME?

No. Sometimes the x-ray doctor (radiologist) may choose to put air into the stomach to make it more visible. To do this, you will be given a small amount of gas-producing powders to swallow with water. These will make you feel full, but you will be asked not to burp until after your pictures have been taken.

The doctor may put a small amount of medicine into your vein to help relax your stomach. This makes it easier to see your stomach. This medicine does not make you drowsy or affect you any other way.

The x-ray doctor will discuss your specific exam so that you will know what to expect.

WHAT DO I DO AFTER MY UPPER G.I. SERIES?

For the first 1-2 days after the x-ray, your bowel movements may appear white and chalky. This is normal. Ask your doctor if you should take a laxative and drink extra liquids to help clean out the barium and prevent constipation.

HOW LONG DOES THE EXAM TAKE?

Your x-ray visit for an Upper G.I. Series will take about 30-45 minutes. This includes waiting time. If you also have a Small Bowel Series, your visit may take up to 4 hours, depending on how long it takes the barium to pass through your bowel. Please understand that you may have to wait a few minutes during your x-ray while the films are being checked. It is important that the films have all the needed information.

The information on this Website is provided for general informational purposes only and **SHOULD NOT** be relied upon as a substitute for sound professional medical advice, evaluation or care from your physician or other qualified

healthcare provider. If you have a medical problem or a health-related question, consult your physician or call Health On-Call at 336-716-2255 or 1-800-446-2255.

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Medical Center Boulevard
Winston-Salem, NC 27157
(336) 716-5053