



PATIENT INFORMATION

Radiology Department Information for Inpatients having a Barium Meal

Patient Details

Name.....

Hospital Number.....

Ward.....

Date/time of planned procedure.....



What is a barium meal?

This is an examination of the upper part of the gastric tract, which is from the mouth to the stomach and occasionally a little further.

For this you will need to stand on a small step in front of an x-ray machine, and drink some thick fruit flavoured fluid (barium). The progress of this fluid from your mouth to your stomach will be observed and recorded by film and/or video. You may need to lie down for some x-rays to be taken. Sometimes the Radiologist (doctor) carrying out the examination will want to make a small injection in your arm, to help clarify the picture.

This examination may take up to an hour, and occasionally further films are needed, for which you would be required to stay longer. This is a relatively simple procedure with little risks.

If you have any questions then you can ask the ward staff to contact us.

Radiology coordinator ☎ (01803) 655622

Radiology nurses ☎ (01803) 655657

Preparation

- Nothing to eat or drink for 6 hours before the examination but you can have clear fluids up to 2 hours before your examination.
- Discontinue all medication taken for stomach and digestive conditions for two days prior to this appointment if possible. Check with the nurse looking after you.
- If you are diabetic, please inform the ward staff to let us know.
- It would help if you were changed into a hospital gown before coming to the Radiology department.