

# Paediatric Barium Swallow and Meal

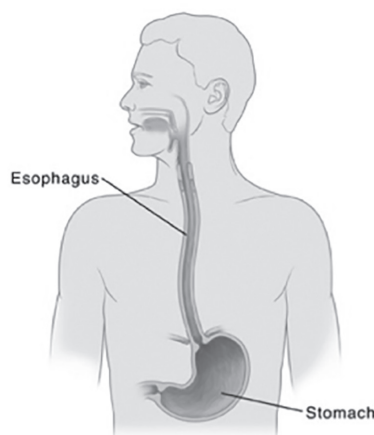
Radiology

## The aim of this leaflet

- Is not meant to replace informed discussion between you and your child's doctor
- Is to explain what is involved and what will happen to your child
- What the possible risks are for this procedure

## What is a Paediatric Barium Swallow and Meal?

A Paediatric Barium Swallow is an examination of your child's oesophagus (gullet); sometimes X-rays of your child's stomach may be taken (Barium Meal).



## Is there any preparation?

It is most important that the stomach is empty when your child attends for the examination. **Please do not give your child anything to eat or drink for 2 hours before the appointment. (If your child is under 5 years of age do not give them anything to eat or drink for 1 hour before the appointment).**

The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.

- Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111
- Keep the environment clean and tidy
- Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.

## Do I need to bring anything / anyone with me?

Please bring a dressing gown, pyjamas / night gown and slippers if you have them.

Please bring with you items to comfort the child for example;

- A favourite cup to drink from
- A favourite toy or blanket
- Something to keep them occupied during their time in the X-ray department
- Nappy if appropriate

You will be able to stay with your child during the test. If you are pregnant or feel that you will be too upset, you may bring along another adult who is known to the child. Please give a simple explanation to your child if age permits.

## What happens during a Paediatric Barium Swallow and Meal?

Your child may need to undress and change into pyjamas / gown. Your child will then be given half a cup of Barium to drink, which is a white strawberry flavoured milky drink. In younger children this can be given in a feeding bottle or a syringe.

If older children refuse to take the drink, the examination cannot be undertaken. The referring clinician will be informed to consider any alternative tests.

The radiologist will watch the progress of the Barium and take a number of images.

## How long will it take?

The examination is usually completed within 30 minutes.

## What if your child is diabetic?

If your child is diabetic, please contact the Radiology department as soon as you receive the appointment, so that further instructions can be given to you.

## Are there any risks or side effects from radiation?

There are some risks involved with the use of X-rays.

The overriding concern of your child's doctor and radiology is to ensure that when radiation is used, the benefits from making the right diagnosis outweigh any small risk involved.

Radiologists / radiographers who perform the examination are trained to ensure that the radiation dose associated with the examination is always kept to a minimum.

### **Barium:**

Barium in the bowel can cause constipation but this can be avoided by encouraging your child to drink plenty of fluid for a day or two.

## After the examination

Your child can eat and drink normally following the examination. The Barium will be passed out with your child's bowel motions during the next few days and may be paler in colour.

## When will I get the results?

The X-rays need to be studied and a report issued, so we will not be able to give you your child's results straight away. The radiographer will advise you where and when to get your child's results.

## Student training

A student radiographer may be present during the examination. If you would prefer them not to be present, please let the radiographer know at the time.

## Special needs

If your child has any special needs, which are likely to affect the examination, please contact the Radiology department.

## How to contact us

If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything about your child's examination, before you attend, please contact the Radiology department on 01902 694062 available between 09:00 and 16:00 Monday to Friday.

### **Radiology Department A2**

Level one  
New Cross Hospital  
Wolverhampton  
West Midlands  
WV10 0QP

### **Patient Advice and Liaison Service**

New Cross Hospital  
01902 695362  
Email: [rwh-tr.pals@nhs.net](mailto:rwh-tr.pals@nhs.net)

## Car Parking

Please leave plenty of time to find a parking space as parking is limited. The nearest car park to the Radiology department is P6 situated on the south side of the hospital (charges are applicable).

## English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

## Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

## Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

## Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

## Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

## Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。