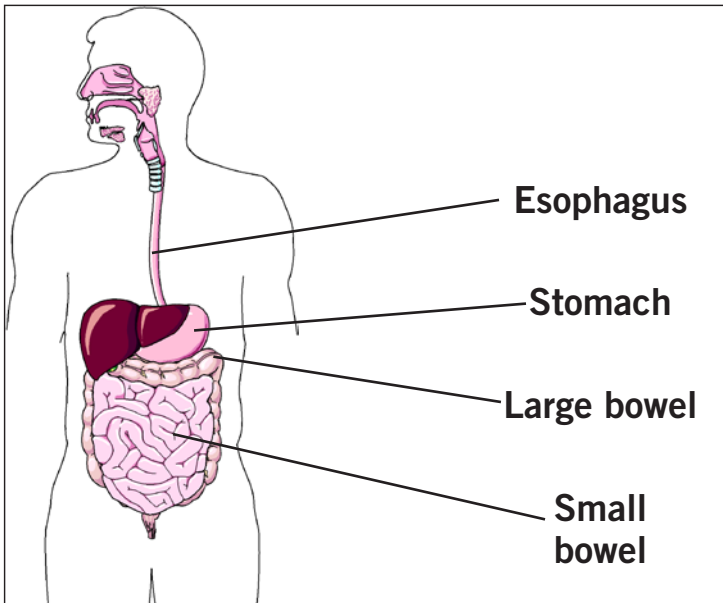


2013

Upper GI X-ray

Upper GI X-ray

Your doctor has arranged for you to have an X-ray called an Upper GI. You may also hear it called a barium meal or barium swallow. Your “GI” is your gastrointestinal tract.



How do I get ready?

- Nothing to eat or drink (including water) after 10 p.m. the night before your test.
- If you are diabetic and taking pills and/or insulin, check with your family doctor. You may need some special instructions about taking these medicines before your test. Bring your blood testing equipment to the hospital with you.
- We recommend that you take any medications **after** your test. If you must take it before, please take it with only a small sip of water.

- Arrive at the Diagnostic Imaging (X-ray) Department 15 minutes before your appointment. Keep in mind that parking is limited at the Victoria General (VG) site.

Where will the test be?

It will happen in the Diagnostic Imaging (X-ray) Department.

What happens during the test?

- The radiologist and technologist will ask you about your general health. They are also interested in any problems that you have with digestion.
- You will be given a barium drink and some gas pills. The barium shows up on the X-ray.
- The radiologist will watch your esophagus (the tube connecting the mouth to the stomach), the stomach and the first part of the small bowel on a monitor and take some images.
- We will ask you to turn from side to side and towards the end, you will be lying down.
- If other images are needed, you may be asked to wait.

What happens after the test?

- You may notice that your bowel movements are white for a couple of days.
- Drinking extra fluids may help you pass the barium.
- Speak with your family doctor if your bowels have not moved for a couple of days after the test.
- Your doctor will discuss the results of the test with you.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask. We are here to help you.

If you can't keep your appointment, please call the location your appointment is with so that another patient can have your time slot:

(902) 473-3618 QEII and Dartmouth General
(902) 869-6102 Cobequid Community Health Centre
(902) 792-2076 Hants Community Hospital

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