

Barium Enema or Air Contrast Barium Enema Study- The purpose of this test is to study the function and appearance of the large intestines. You will be given barium (a white chalky liquid) through an enema tube which is inserted into your rectum. Barium is a contrast agent that improves the quality of the images.

Please inform the technologist if you are allergic to barium or any contrast agent. Please inform the technologist if you are pregnant. Many imaging tests are not performed during pregnancy. If you are diabetic please consult your physician as to any special instructions concerning your diabetes prior to the test. Please bring your current home medications or a list of your medications with you the day of the test.

The test requires a bowel prep to ensure your intestines are free of stool. Please purchase 1-10oz bottle of magnesium citrate oral solution saline laxative, 4 bisacodyl tablets, and 1 bisacodyl suppository. Eat a light supper 2 days before the test then clear liquids after 10:00pm on that day. The day before the test you may have clear liquids all day. Breakfast and a noon lunch should consist of clear soup or broth, strained fruit juices (no pulp), or non red gelatin. You may drink soft drinks, black coffee or plain tea. At 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, and 5pm drink one full 8oz glass of water. At 5:30 pm drink the 10oz bottle of magnesium citrate followed by one 8oz glass of water. Drink one full 8oz glass of water at 6pm and 7pm. At 7:30pm take 4 bisacodyl tablets followed by one 8oz glass of water. Drink one 8oz glass of water at 8pm and 9pm.

You must be NPO (**nothing to eat or drink- including medications**) after midnight the day of the test. The day of the test, 2 hours before your scheduled appointment time, please remove the wrapper from the suppository and insert the suppository into your rectum. Please retain the suppository for at least 15 minutes before having a bowel movement.

You may be asked to remove some or all of your clothes and wear a gown during the test. You may also be asked to remove jewelry, eye glasses, and any metal objects or clothing that might interfere with the images. The test may require you to stand, lie flat, or turn from side to side. Multiple images of your anatomy will be taken using a radiographic camera. The images will be taken at timed intervals during the exam. The images will be reviewed by a Radiologist (a doctor that reads x-rays) and a report will be sent to your ordering physician in 48 hours. The test takes approximately 1½ to 2 hours.

The technologist will give you discharge instructions after the completion of the test.