Diagnostic Contrast Procedures (Radiographic-X-ray Test with Contrast)- An x-ray (radiograph) is a noninvasive medical test that helps physicians diagnose and treat medical conditions. Imaging with x-rays involves exposing a part of the body to a small dose of ionizing radiation to produce pictures of the inside of the body. An x-ray machine produces a small burst of radiation that passes through the body, recording an image on photographic film or a special detector. X-rays are the oldest and most frequently used form of medical imaging. Diagnostic Contrast Procedures use a special form of x-ray called fluoroscopy and a contrast material called barium to provide the medical images needed for your doctor to diagnose your condition.

If you are allergic to barium or your doctor feels your condition warrants not using barium, a different contrast agent can be used. Gastrografin is an iodinated contrast agent that commonly replaces barium. Gastrografin contains iodine so please inform the technologist if you are allergic to iodine.

Fluoroscopy uses a continuous or pulsed x-ray beam to create a sequence of images that are projected onto a fluorescent screen, or television-like monitor. When used with a contrast material (barium), which clearly defines the area being examined by making it appear dark, this special x-ray technique makes it possible for the physician to view internal organs in motion. Still and fluoroscopic images are captured and stored electronically on a computer. These images are reviewed by a Radiologist (a doctor that reads x-rays) and a report is sent to your ordering doctor in 48 hours. The following pages contain a detailed description of the diagnostic contrast procedures preformed at our facility.