

# Esophogram (X-ray of the Esophagus)

## General Information

Your doctor wants you to have an X-ray exam that shows your esophagus. This is the tube that passes food from your mouth to your stomach.

During the exam you will swallow barium (a chalky liquid). This will help show your esophagus better on the X-ray.

The exam takes about 45 to 60 minutes.

## What To Tell Your Doctor

Tell your doctor if you:

- are pregnant
- have a latex allergy.

## Before the Exam

- You may eat and drink as usual.
- Take your regular medicines.
- Go right to the Radiology Department 15 minutes before the exam.
- You will change your clothes and wear a hospital gown and robe.
- The technologist (person helping with the exam) will talk with you about the exam.

## During the Exam

- You will get a glass of barium (a thick substance to help the X-ray) to drink.
- No medicines are needed.

## Your Exam

Hospital: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.

Clinic number: \_\_\_\_\_

- You will stand next to — and later lie — on the X-ray table.
- You may be asked to turn from side to side.
- After you swallow the barium, the radiologist (doctor doing the exam) will use an X-ray camera to take the images of your esophagus.

## After the Exam

- Drink lots of water for a few days to prevent constipation.
- Return to your normal diet.
- Take your regular medicines.
- Return to your normal activities.
- You may not have a “normal” bowel movement for several days. Stools could be light in color.
- The radiologist will look at the images taken during the exam. He or she will give the results to your doctor.
- If you do not have a follow-up appointment, call your clinic for the results in 3 to 5 working days.