

BARIUM ENEMA



Preparation Information Sheet

BARIUM ENEMA

What is it:

An x-ray examination of your large bowel (colon).

Preparation:

Three day preparation of dietary restriction and laxatives to completely clean out your colon. For a good quality examination, it is essential that your colon be completely clean. You will need to collect the preparation instructions from our practice beforehand.

What you must tell us beforehand:

If you are being treated for glaucoma (high pressure in the eyes), or heart failure, or have ever had a reaction to the drug Buscopan.

What happens:

A small tube is put into your rectum. A barium suspension is allowed to run in until it gets to the beginning of the colon. Some is then run out. An injection of Buscopan may then be given to relax your colon. It is then filled with air and various pictures are taken from different directions with you lying and standing to clearly see the whole of the colon.

How long does it take:

About 30 minutes.

Special precautions:

You would not be given Buscopan if you had a history of allergy to it, or were being treated for heart failure or glaucoma (high pressure in the eyes).

After your examination:

Drink lots of fluids and have a high fibre diet for 2-3 days to flush the barium out of your large bowel, otherwise it will tend to cause constipation.

Your images and report:

After your examination, you will be given a copy of the most pertinent images from your study. A report will be given to you with the images, or sent directly back to your referring doctor by fax or email. We will store digital copies of all studies on our secure database for comparison with any future examinations.

Please bring any previous x-rays with you for comparison.

It is important that you return to your doctor with your examination results. Whether they are normal or abnormal, your doctor needs to know promptly so that a management plan can be formulated.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR DIABETICS:

If your examination requires fasting, then book an early morning appointment and have your breakfast and diabetic medication after the examination.