

# ESOPHAGRAM

## **Purpose:**

Can identify and locate ulcers, obstructions, hiatal hernias, tumors, polyps, inflammatory disease, etc.

## **How long will the procedure take?**

The entire procedure will take 30 to 45minutes.

## **Preparation:**

No preparation. EXCEPTION: Babies should arrive sufficiently hungry to be willing to drink barium from a bottle. We recommend that parents bring bottle and nipple.

## **Procedure:**

You will put on a hospital gown and remove foreign objects such as jewelry, snaps, buttons, etc., for your examination.

You will be given a cup of relatively flavorless barium to drink for the study. A radiologist will fluoroscope and take small "spot" films as the barium travels through the esophagus and into the stomach; the x-ray table will tilt from vertical to horizontal during the examination. The radiologic technologist will then take overhead films of the entire area of interest.

All your films will be reviewed by the radiologist before you leave the department to assure that no additional films are necessary.

## **After the examination:**

The radiologist will study your films and dictate a report which will be sent to your physician within 24 hours. Chalky stools may persist for several days. A high fiber diet and plenty of liquids will help prevent possible constipation, and a mild laxative may help.