

G.I. SERIES, SMALL BOWEL SERIES

Purpose:

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

How long will the procedure take?

The entire GI procedure will take 30 to 45 minutes. A Small Bowel Series done either alone or in conjunction with a G.I. Series can take from 1 to 6 hours.

Preparation:

Nothing by mouth after 10 PM the evening before the examination. You are allowed no more than 6 oz. of water on the morning of the examination to take your normal medications.

Procedure:

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

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 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.

NOTE: If you are scheduled for a Small Bowel Series, you will drink two cups of barium; timed films are taken 20 to 30 minutes apart will be performed until the barium reaches the colon. You may be asked to walk as this will help the barium pass through the bowel more rapidly. It may help pass the time if you bring reading material with you.

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. You may resume regular meals and medications after completion of the examination. 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.