

Barium Enema

A Barium Enema allows the radiologist to view the large bowel (colon) and helps in the diagnosis of some bowel problems such as cancers and polyps.

Preparation

You will need to collect a preparation kit from our practice. This kit requires you to follow a special diet and take a laxative drink to clear your bowel. You must follow the instructions given to you precisely.

Please contact us prior to your appointment if:

- any of the preparation instructions are unclear
- if you have had previous problems with a similar procedure
- if you have diabetes or glaucoma.

Please take any normal medication with a sip of water.

Procedure

During the procedure, you will be asked to lie on an x-ray table and a flexible, lubricated tube will be placed into your rectum. This tube will normally stay in place by itself, or a small balloon may be inflated to hold it in place.

A white barium mixture and air is passed into the bowel. You will be asked to roll into a variety of positions to make sure that your bowel is well coated with the mixture.

There may be some discomfort during the procedure but as soon as the x-rays have

been taken some of the fluid and air will be drained away. If the procedure proves too uncomfortable, an injection of Buscopan or Glucagon may be administered to relax the bowel. The tube will then be removed and you will be able to go to the toilet.

There should be no ill effects after the examination although your bowel action will be white for some days. Some people feel some cramping discomfort for a short time.

To avoid constipation add 0.5 to 1 litre of fluid (e.g. water, cordial, fruit juice, etc.) and some fruit to your diet during the day after the examination.

How long will the procedure take?

The examination can take approximately 40 minutes.

Please contact your referring doctor to discuss the results.

PLEASE BRING ANY PREVIOUS X-RAYS OR SCANS WITH YOU ON THE DAY OF YOUR EXAMINATION.

CONFIRM ANY PREPARATION REQUIRED WITH STAFF WHEN MAKING YOUR APPOINTMENT.

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Your doctor may request to go filmless

With the growing use of digital imaging, Northside Medical Imaging is giving doctors the opportunity to not receive hard copy films and to replace them with electronic reports and images – in other words, go “filmless”.

If your referring doctor elects to go “filmless,” once you have completed your medical imaging examination, you will no longer have to wait for x-ray films. The images will be sent electronically to your doctor’s computer together with a report from our Radiologist.

If you require films in the future, all films are stored digitally and can be requested at anytime with 24 hour notice.

BARIUM ENEMA IS PERFORMED AT OUR HORNSBY CLINIC ONLY

Northside Medical Imaging clinics

Hornsby

53 Palmerston Road, Hornsby 2077
Ph: 9476 3388 | Fax: 9477 7873

Hornsby

14 Edgeworth David Avenue, Hornsby 2077
Ph: 9477 1644 | Fax: 9482 1102

Lindfield

4/12-18 Tryon Road, Lindfield 2070
Ph: 9416 5050 | Fax: 9416 6731

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