

Fluoro Small Bowel Only

Before Procedure

Your last meal must be no later than 6:00 pm the night before the exam. No food is allowed after this time. One hour after your meal, drink one 10 ounce bottle of Magnesium Citrate. Nothing by mouth after midnight. If you need to take medication, use small sips of water only. The average length of this exam is 60 to 90 minutes, but it could take up to 4 hours.

If you are allergic to contrast dye or iodine or have had any previous history of contrast dye or iodine reactions, please contact your referring physician for premedication.

During Procedure

This exam can take several hours. The patient is asked to lie on the X-Ray exam table. Preliminary X-Ray of the abdomen is taken. The patient is given two bottles of barium to drink. A barium fills the small bowel, X-rays of the abdomen are taken every 15- 30 minutes over the next hour or two until the entire small bowel is opacified. The radiologist then uses a fluoroscope machine for an immediate showing of x-ray images of the small bowel. The radiologist will apply pressure on the abdomen and ask the patient to move in different positions.

After Procedure

After the examination, you can resume a regular diet and take orally administered medications unless instructed otherwise by your doctor.

The barium may color your stools gray or white for 48 to 72 hours after the procedure. Sometimes the barium can cause temporary constipation. Drinking large quantities of fluids for several days following the test can help. If you are unable to have a bowel movement or if your bowel habits undergo any significant changes following the exam, you should contact your physician.