What you should know about your **Upper GI Series**.

**Purpose:**

This exam allows the radiologist to see your upper digestive tract, including your esophagus, stomach and the first part of your small bowel, known as your duodenum.

**Preparation:**

- You may not have anything to eat or drink for 10 hours before your test. If you need to take medications, please call your physician for instructions. For infants please contact the Imaging Department for instructions.

**Procedure: What to Expect**

- You may be asked to remove some or all of your clothes and to wear a gown during the exam.
- You will be in the department for approximately 30 minutes.
- We will verify your name, date of birth and procedure you will be having done.
- We will take a brief history.
- We will take one preliminary x-ray of your abdomen.
- We will begin the exam with you standing against the x-ray table in an upright position.
- You will be asked to swallow a small amount of granules, or crystals, with a small amount of water. The granules create air in your stomach and esophagus when they are swallowed and cause them to expand.
- You will then be asked to swallow some liquid containing barium. It will coat your esophagus and stomach and allow us to see the lining.
- The table will be turned to a horizontal position and you will be asked to roll into various positions to allow us to see your anatomy from different angles.
- You may be asked to swallow a tablet of compressed barium so that we can see how bites of food pass into your stomach.
- You may experience some pressure in your stomach from the gas, which will dissipate later, but the exam is generally not uncomfortable or painful.

**After Exam:**

- You should drink extra amounts of liquids to help flush the barium out of your system. If necessary, you may take a mild laxative to help this process.
- You may resume your normal diet and routine.
- Your exam will be evaluated by a radiologist and the report will be sent to your physician.

**Note**

You will be exposed to a very small amount of ionizing radiation which carries no long term risk. Women should always inform their physician or x-ray technologists if there is any chance of pregnancy.

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**Imaging Department Phone Number:**

(717) 851-4624