



## BARIUM ENEMA WITH AIR

Patient \_\_\_\_\_ Appointment Date \_\_\_\_\_

Physician Ordering \_\_\_\_\_

History/Reason for Exam \_\_\_\_\_

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### What is a BARIUM ENEMA WITH AIR exam?

This is an x-ray examination of your large intestine (colon). The purpose of this test is to detect abnormalities or disease that may be in your colon.

### How do I prepare for this examination?

It is important that your colon be free of stool at the time of your barium enema. Stool present in the colon during the examination may be mistaken for polyps or tumors on the x-rays. Even more important stool may hide polyps or tumors and prevent their detection. Therefore, you will be given instructions to have clear liquids two days before your exam, and a colon cleansing preparation kit with instructions on how to take it the day before your barium enema with air. This preparation consists of dietary restrictions, scheduled fluid intake, oral laxatives, and a suppository.

### What can I expect the day of my examination?

Please report to the Providence Imaging Center 15 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment time if you are not already pre-registered (billing information confirmed over the phone). This is where we will verify your billing information. This can be accomplished through pre-registration by calling 212-3151. On arrival to the x-ray department, you will be asked to change into a patient gown.

The examination is performed through the combined efforts of a Radiologist, a doctor who specializes in patient examination and medical diagnosis with x-rays, and a Radiologic Technologist, a person trained to work with x-ray equipment. You will be brought into the x-ray room and helped onto the x-ray table. Above you will be the fluoroscope, the camera that will be taking your x-ray pictures. You will be placed on your left side on the x-ray table, and a lubricated enema tip will be inserted into your rectum. The enema tip has a small balloon on the end which when inflated helps to retain the barium in your colon. Through this enema tip, barium will flow into your colon. The air is also inserted

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through this tip halfway through the examination. It is the barium and the air that allows the Radiologist to see and evaluate your colon on the x-rays. As the barium fills your colon, you will likely experience the sensation of wanting to move your bowels. It is important that you try your best to hold the barium in until the end of the examination, at which time you may go to the restroom. Throughout the examination, you will be turned from side to side and various other positions as pictures of your colon are being taken. Periodically through the exam, you will be asked to remain still and hold your breath while pictures are taken.

After the Radiologist completes the evaluation, he/she leaves the room and the Radiologic Technologist takes additional pictures using a different x-ray camera. Meanwhile, the Radiologist will be reviewing your pictures to determine if additional films will be necessary.

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

This exam takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.

### **How do I get rid of all the barium?**

We encourage you to drink fluids (water, coffee, tea, or fruit juices, etc.) to aid in the passage of the barium remaining in your colon. In the rare event of post-procedure complications, please contact your physician. It is important to tell your physician what test you had and the exact nature of the complications.

### **How do I find out the result of my barium enema with air exam?**

The Radiologist who performed the examination will review the films from your barium enema. The Radiologist will send a written report to your physician who will give you the results.

### **Important Considerations**

Any woman who is pregnant or suspects she may be pregnant should let her physician know before scheduling this exam.

If you've had a colonoscopy **that included a biopsy** in the last 7-10 days, you should wait 10 days before this exam is performed to allow the colon time to heal completely from the biopsy.

Providence Imaging Center (PIC) is an independent diagnostic testing facility with two locations: In Anchorage on the east side of the Providence Alaska Medical Center campus, and in Eagle River at 17101 Snowmobile Lane.