



Small Bowel Series

Patient _____ Appointment Date _____

Clinician Ordering _____

History/Reason for Exam _____

What is a Small Bowel exam?

This is an x-ray examination of your small intestine. The purpose of this test is to detect abnormalities or disease that may be present in this area.

How do I prepare for this examination?

It is important that your stomach be free of food and liquid at the time of your small bowel exam. Food and liquids present in the stomach during the examination may hide ulcers, tumors or other disease processes and prevent their detection. Therefore, you will be given instructions for the night before your examination. This preparation consists of dietary restrictions. **DO NOT EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING AFTER MIDNIGHT.**

What can I expect the day of my examination?

You will report to Providence Imaging Center fifteen minutes prior to your scheduled appointment time. This is where they will take your billing information. This can be accomplished through pre-registration by calling 212-3156, or online at www.provimaging.com/register. 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 or a Radiologic Nurse Practitioner (RNP) -- a nurse 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. In front of you will be the fluoroscope, the camera that will be taking your x-ray pictures. You will be placed upright and given instructions on how to drink the barium necessary for the exam. The barium allows the Radiologist to see and evaluate your small intestine. Throughout the examination, you will be turned from side to side and various other positions as pictures of the small intestine are being taken. Periodically through the exam, you will be asked to remain still and hold your breath while pictures are taken.

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After the initial fluoroscopy is completed, the Radiologic Technologist takes pictures at fifteen-minute increments for the first hour. If the barium has not gone completely through the small bowel at the end of an hour, films are taken at 30-minute increments. Meanwhile, the Radiologist will be reviewing your pictures to determine if additional films will be necessary.

How long will the exam take?

The time of these exams vary from patient to patient depending on the transit time of barium through the small bowel. After the stomach films are taken, pictures are taken of the small intestine every fifteen minutes for one hour and every thirty minutes after that. Transit time can range from **thirty minutes to three or four hours**. On rare occasions transit time **may be even longer**. Please plan on spending this amount of time.

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 clinician. It is important to tell your clinician what test you had and the exact nature of the complications.

How do I find out the result of my Small Bowel exam?

The Radiologist will review the films from your Small Bowel. The Radiologist will send a written report to your clinician, who will give you the results.

Important Considerations

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

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.