

Small Bowel Study

Why is it done ? Gastrointestinal (GI) X-ray exams involve the use of barium (or a water soluble liquid that shows on x-rays), barium solutions, and x-ray machines. These are used to diagnose problems throughout the digestive tract such as, abdominal pain, unexplained weight loss, diarrhea, **bleeding, vomiting, intestinal tumors, ulcers, and digestive disorders, such as Crohns' disease.** The Small Bowel test examines the approximately 22 feet of small intestine. This test is considered to be safe and pose very little risk.

How to prepare: Preparation usually includes: no eating or drinking for 8 hours before the test.

Please allow 2-6 hours for the completion of this test.

Please tell the technologist if you have an insulin pump.

What to expect during the test: The **Small Bowel exam** is used to examine the small intestine. You will be asked to drink barium (a contrast material that can be seen on x-rays). Images will be taken at varying times with different positions as the barium moves through the intestines. The exam time is based on how long it takes the barium to go from the stomach into the small bowel, through the entire small bowel and begin to enter into the colon (large/lower bowel). Every patient is different, and depending on the history/issues of the patient, the exam can generally take anywhere from 2-6 hours.

What to expect after the test:

- You can resume your usual activities and normal diet immediately.
 - Drink plenty of fluids.
 - The barium given during the test may cause constipation, so a laxative or enema might be prescribed after the test.
 - It is normal for your stool to have a white or light color for up to three days after the test.
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- The results of your exam should be available to your physician within 24 hours after the test, Monday through Friday.
 - Your physician will discuss the test results with you.