



Small Bowel Follow-Through

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CASTLE MEDICAL CENTER RADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

What you need to know about Small Bowel Follow-Through

WHAT IS A SMALL BOWEL FOLLOW-THROUGH?

The Small Bowel Follow-Through involves drinking a white fluid that is designed to make your small intestine visible on X-ray film. Sometimes the exam is scheduled along with an Upper GI Series. The procedure is most often used to diagnose problems with your digestive tract.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The white barium fluid allows the radiologist to see the contours of your small intestines with the use of X-rays.

MAY I TAKE SOMEONE WITH ME?

Certainly. Your friend or family member is welcome to stay in the waiting room.

HOW SHOULD I PREPARE FOR MY EXAM?

You should follow any preparation instructions provided to you by your nurse or physician.

WHAT ABOUT MY CLOTHING?

You will wear a hospital gown, and should remove any jewelry or any other objects that might interfere with the X-ray prior to coming down to radiology.

If you have slippers or your own robe from home, you may also wear these down to the department as it can be chilly at times.

If you wear reading glasses and would like to read while you are in radiology, please feel free to bring these along with any books or reading material you have to pass the time in between images.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING THE PROCEDURE?

You will be given several glasses of the contrast material (barium mixture) to drink. A technologist will take an X-ray every 15-20 minutes until the barium has passed into the large intestine. This time will vary from person to person. It could take less than an hour or, in some cases, more than two hours. Please keep in mind that the length of time it takes for you does not indicate a normal or abnormal exam. When the barium has passed into your large intestine, the radiologist will check you briefly with a fluoroscope and television monitor.

FOLLOWING THE EXAM...

Your physician may direct you to drink eight glasses of water during the 24 hours following your exam to help you expel the remaining barium. Please follow your physician and nurses instructions, as some renal compromised patients may need to restrict their fluids.

WHEN WILL I LEARN THE RESULTS?

The radiologist will evaluate your case and report to your physician. Normally, within several hours, your physician will inform you of the results.

Your exam is scheduled to start at:

_____:

While we do our best to stay on time, emergencies do arise. In any event, if your exam time is moved for any reason, the radiology department will notify your nurse.