

# X-ray (upper GI series)

## Exam Overview

### *What is X-ray?*

The X-ray has been called one of the most significant advances in medical history. It is used in many different ways in medical diagnosis. Routine X-rays involve exposing a body part to a small dose of radiation to produce an image of an internal organ. An X-ray image is produced when a small amount of radiation passes through the body and strikes a sheet of sensitive film placed on the other side of the body. This film is then either placed in a developing machine to produce images much like negatives from a 35-mm camera, or it is digitally stored on a computer.

An upper GI series is a series of X-rays of the esophagus, stomach, and small intestine (upper gastrointestinal, or GI, tract) that are taken after the patient drinks a barium solution. (Barium is a white, chalky substance that outlines the organs on the X-ray.)

## Exam Preparation

*How to prepare for your X-ray exam (upper GI series)*

DO NOT EMPTY eat or drink after midnight on the morning of the exam

DO NOT chew gum or smoke after midnight, as these activities can cause stomach secretions, which also may degrade the quality of the images.

We request that you arrive at the facility 30 minutes before your scheduled appointment to complete patient registration information. We take pride in keeping on schedule, but emergencies do happen occasionally. The average time for your procedure to be completed is approximately 30 minutes to one hour.

The technologist will perform the procedure and a radiologist will dictate a report to be sent your physician. The results of all examinations will be given to you by your referring doctor. (Results cannot be given to you by the technologist.)

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