



## Diagnostic Imaging

# Information for Patients having a Video Swallow

### What is a video swallow?

This is an examination, performed while you swallow, which is recorded in real time using x-rays so that it can be replayed for the doctor and speech therapist. This is to provide information which may contribute towards a diagnosis, identifying why you are having your symptoms.

### Is there any preparation?

No, there is no preparation.

### What does the examination involve?

- X-rays will be taken whilst you are standing
- You will be given barium mixed with liquid, paste and solid food which can be seen on the X-ray images as they are swallowed.

### How will the examination affect me?

You should have no ill effects from the barium.

### Do I need to bring anything?

No, not unless you normally drink out of a special container, in which case please bring that with you.

### How long will the examination take?

The actual examination takes about 20 minutes, but you will be in the department for about 45 minutes.

### After the examination

After the examination you should eat and drink normally but take extra fluids and eat plenty of fruit and vegetables over the next two days to help clear the barium from your bowels and avoid constipation. If you become constipated, take over the counter medication. Your stools will be lighter in colour.

## Results

The doctor who sent you for the examination will get the results within one week.

## Contact Numbers

We hope that you have found this information useful. If you have any questions, or are worried about anything, please speak to the following Dorset County Hospital Staff:

Appointments Team	01305 254428
Dorset County Hospital Switchboard	01305 251120
Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)	0800 7838058

## About this leaflet

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If you have feedback regarding the accuracy of the information contained in this leaflet, or if you would like a list of references used to develop this leaflet, please email

[pals@dchft.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@dchft.nhs.uk)



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Williams Avenue, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 2JY  
[www.dchft.nhs.uk](http://www.dchft.nhs.uk)