



Diagnostic Imaging Department

Video Swallow and Barium Swallow

What is a Video and Barium Swallow?

This is an examination, performed while you swallow, which is video recorded so that it can be replayed for the doctor and speech therapist to view and decide why you are having your symptoms. Additional “still” x-ray pictures will usually be taken as well. The stomach and upper digestive system are often included.

Is there any preparation?

No, there is no preparation.

What does the examination involve?

- 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
- If the stomach needs further examination, you might also be given fizzy powders to slightly expand the stomach with more barium liquid to drink
- X-rays will be taken in different positions; sitting, standing and lying down.

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 this with you.

How long with 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.

Results

Your imaging examination will be reported on by a Radiologist. The report will be issued to your referring GP or Consultant team who will inform you of the next steps in your care pathway.

The availability of the report can vary dependent on the type and complexity of the imaging examination.

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:

Department: 01305 254428

You can also contact NHS 111 24 hours a day on 111 or www.111.nhs.uk

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



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