

Esophageal Workup & Testing Diagnostic Imaging

Gastric Emptying

A gastric emptying study is a diagnostic imaging exam that *measures the time it takes for food to empty from the stomach and enter the small intestine. A Gastric Emptying Study is a test to determine the time it takes a meal to move through a person's stomach.*

It involves eating a light meal, such as eggs and toast, that contains a small amount of radioactive material.

Right Upper Quadrant Ultrasound

Ultrasound is a type of imaging. It uses high-frequency sound waves to look at organs and structures inside the body

Upper GI - Barium Swallow

An upper gastrointestinal (GI) series is *an X-ray exam of your upper digestive tract, the area from your mouth to the start of your small intestine.* This test uses fluoroscopy, a type of real time X-ray that can show organs in motion. This test helps your doctor find problems such as ulcers, tumors, and certain diseases.

For the upper GI series, you will be asked to *swallow a liquid barium mixture (sometimes called a "barium meal").* The radiologist uses a fluoroscope to watch the barium as it travels down your esophagus and into the stomach. You will be asked to move into various positions on the Xray table while the radiologist watches the GI tract, permanent pictures – Xray films will be made as needed.

How do I get ready for an Upper GI series?

Follow any directions you are given for not eating or drinking before your test.

Be sure to mention the medicines you take and ask if it's OK to take them before your test.

Do not smoke the morning of the test.

The test usually takes about 30 minutes. Allow extra time to check in.

Tell the technologist if:

You have any allergies

You ate or drank within the last 8 hours

You're pregnant or think you may be

You've had any previous surgery

You take any medicines

What happens during an upper GI series?

You will drink barium (a liquid that improves X-ray images).

You also may swallow "fizzies," a substance that makes air build up in your stomach. Do not burp, even if you feel you must.

You may need to stand or lie in different positions or have your exam table tilted in various directions.

You will be asked to hold your breath for a short time during the X-ray.

What happens after an upper GI series?

Your stool may appear white or lighter than normal.

You may have constipation caused by the barium. You can relieve this by taking an over-the-counter laxative or stool softener and drinking lots of fluids for several days after the exam. Talk with your healthcare provider if you have serious bowel movement problems after the test.

Your doctor will discuss the test results with you during a follow-up appointment or over the phone