

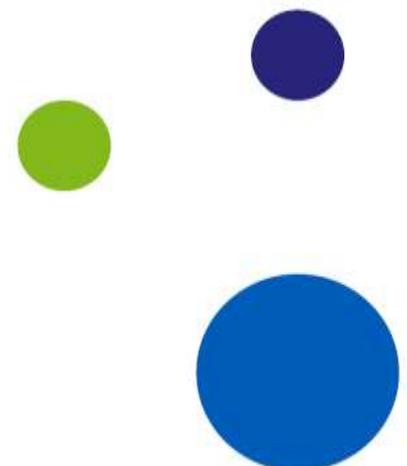


Barium Follow Through (without bowel prep)

Patient Information

Radiology Department

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It is very important that you take the time to read this **entire** leaflet as it contains information and instructions essential for your examination to be performed successfully.

What is a barium follow through?

A barium follow through is a special x-ray study of the small bowel. The bowel does not show up very well on ordinary x-ray pictures, therefore we will ask you to drink a white chalky liquid called “barium” to highlight the bowel to produce clearer pictures.

This test can take a long time. Everybody’s bowel works differently some slower or quicker than others, so be aware that you may be in the X-ray Department all morning - sometimes longer. (It may be a good idea to bring a book or magazine to read).

Do I need to fast?

Yes, it is important that you do not eat or drink anything from midnight the night before your examination.

Important information

If any of the following applies to you, please contact the X-ray Department.

- ❖ Have you had a bowel biopsy within one week of your appointment date?
- ❖ Are you or might you be pregnant?

To prevent irradiating an unborn baby we will only X-Ray women within 28 days of the first day of their last period (this only applies to women between 12 and 50 years old).

Therefore, if it is longer than 28 days between your appointment and the first day of a period, please ring the X-Ray Department for advice 01942 822397.

When you arrive at the hospital

Please follow the directions to the Radiology or X-ray Department and report to the reception desk.

You will be shown to a private cubicle and given a gown to put on. You will be able to place your personal items in a basket that you will keep with you. If you want to bring your own dressing gown to wear over the top, that is fine.

What happens during the examination?

You will be taken into the x-ray room and introduced to the Practitioner Radiographer / Consultant Radiologist.

You will be asked to drink some “barium” (white chalky liquid). A series of x-ray pictures of your abdomen will be taken at timed intervals, with you either lying on your front or back.

You will be asked to sit outside the x-ray room in between each picture and given another cup full of barium to drink.

Once the barium has reached the end of your small bowel, it will be necessary to take some more pictures with a different machine whilst pressing on your abdomen in certain areas. This is to ensure that your entire small bowel has all been visualised.

Once the examination is complete you are free to leave the department, and advised to eat a good high fibre diet including plenty of fruit and vegetables, and we do ask that you drink plenty of fluids (water, tea or fruit juice) for the next two days to ensure that you do not become constipated from the barium.

Can I bring a relative/friend?

Yes, but they will not be able to accompany you into the x-ray room.

How long will it take?

This test can take a long time. Everybody's bowel works differently some slower or quicker than others, so be aware that you may be in the X-ray Department all morning - sometimes longer. (It may be a good idea to bring a book or magazine to read).

Are there any side effects?

Your stools may appear whiter in colour and may remain discoloured for the next day or two.

The barium may make you constipated so try to drink plenty of fluids for at least two days and eat a good, high fibre diet with plenty of fruit and vegetables.

After the procedure you will be offered a hot drink before you leave, and will be given an aftercare information leaflet to take home with you.

When will I get the results?

The report will be sent to your consultant for your next clinic appointment or if your GP referred you for the test they should have the results in around 14 days.

Are there any risks and complications?

The barium follow through examination involves x-rays of the abdomen, and the total amount for the test is quite small – about the same as we receive naturally from the environment over a period of about three years.

The risks are small and your doctor will have come to the conclusion that they recommend you should have this examination. Do remember that the risks from missing a serious disorder by not having the test are considered to be much greater.

Frequently asked questions

Can I take my medication?

Yes, with a small amount of water.

Can I eat and drink?

No. It is very important that you do not eat or drink anything from midnight the night before your examination.

Information for diabetic patients

We do try to book diabetic patients first thing onto a morning list to reduce the time you need to fast. It is probably a good idea to bring a sandwich and drink with you to have after your examination is complete. We will also offer you a hot drink before you leave.

If you begin to feel ill whilst fasting, you can have a few sips of a sugar glucose drink. If you would like further advice you can ring the X-ray Department on this number 01942 822397.

Where can I park my car?

You can park your car on the main hospital site and there is a small charge, so bring some change with you. Please note disabled drivers will also have to pay to park.

We now have another car park available to patients on Freckleton Street, and there is a short walk up to the hospital. The same parking charges apply.

Ambulance transport

If it is necessary for you to have ambulance transport and you live in the Wigan borough, please telephone 01942 482990 to arrange it. Please inform the ambulance depot that it is for a special X-Ray and it is essential that you arrive on time.

If you do not live in the Wigan borough, please contact your GP to arrange your ambulance transport.

Further information

If you have any queries regarding the examination, or suggestions on how we may improve any aspect of our service, please do not hesitate to speak to us either on the day of the examination or contact us on 01942 822397 (Monday to Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm).

Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends and carers.

Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary
Wigan Lane
Wigan WN1 2NN

Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the pros and cons of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



How We Use Your Personal Information

For details on how we collect, use and store the information we hold about you, please take a look at our “how we use your personal information” leaflet which can be found on the Trust website:

www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient_information/Leaflets/default.aspx

This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille and other languages upon request.

For more information call 01942 773106.

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