Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

# Videofluoroscopy - Accessible Information

Version number: **3**
Last modified date: **12th November 2026**

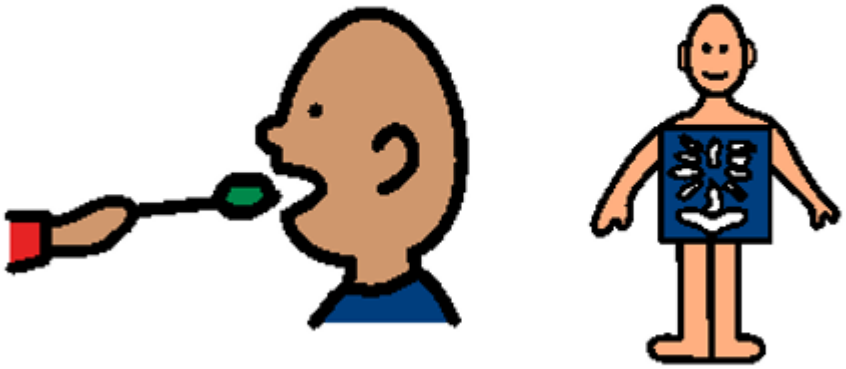
Accessible Information for Patients

# Speech & Language Department

- Author ID: RD
- Leaflet Ref: SL 011
- Date Reviewed: June 2023
- Expiry Date: June 2025

## What is a Videofluoroscopy?

A Videofluoroscopy is an **x-ray** of your **swallow**.



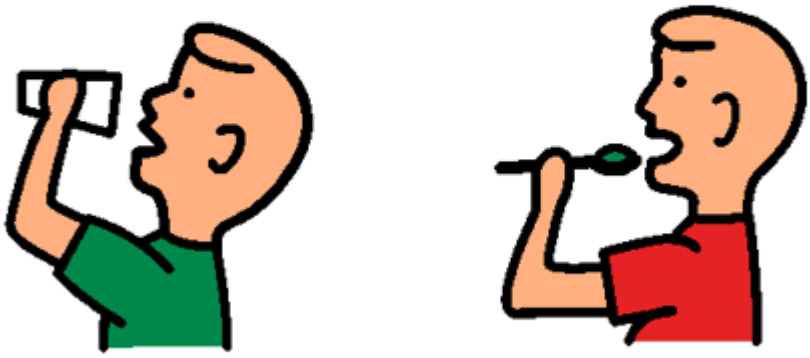
## Why do I need a Videofluoroscopy?

A **stroke** or **brain injury** can make your swallowing muscles **weak**.



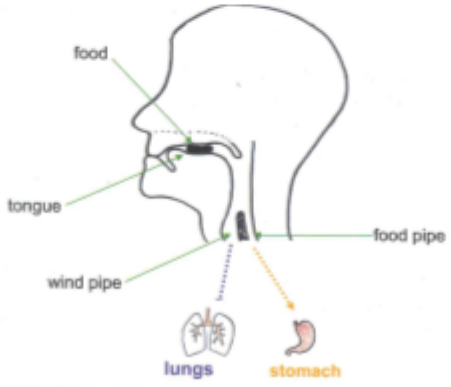
## Why do I need a Videofluoroscopy?

An x-ray will show what you can eat and drink safely.



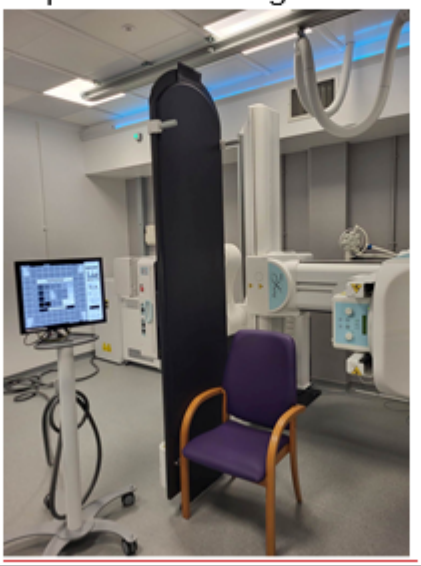
## Why do I need a Videofluoroscopy?

Food and drink can go down the **wrong way**.
Food and drink can go into your **lungs**.
This can make you **ill**.



## Where is it?

The **x-ray** department at Wigan or Leigh hospital.



## Who will be there?

**Speech** and
Language



## Who will be there?

**Students** may be there too.



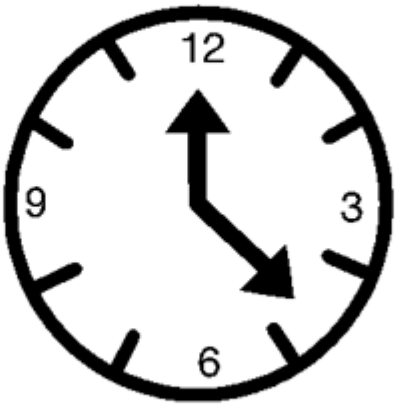
## Who will be there?

A **family** member or **friend** can come with you.
A **member of staff** can come with you.



## How long will it take?

The x-ray will take about **30 minutes**.




## What should I do before the x-ray?

You can take your **tablets** as **normal**.



## What should I do before the x-ray?

You can **eat** and **drink**, or have your **usual feed** as **recommended** before the x-ray.








## What will happen?

You will be given different **food** and **drinks**.



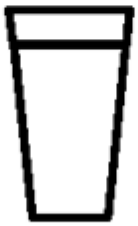






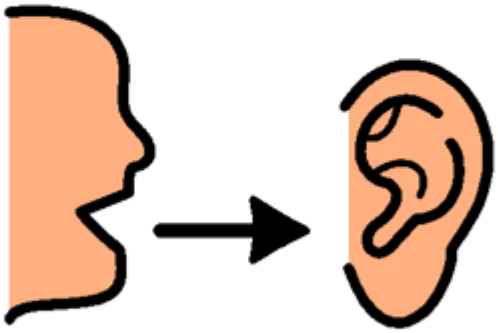
## What will happen?

The food and drinks will be mixed with **barium**.
Barium is a **powder**.
Barium will give food a **chalky** taste.
Barium will make the **food** and **drink** show up on **x-ray**.



## What will happen?

You will need to **listen** carefully to the **instructions**.



## Results

The Speech and Language Therapist will **look** at the **x-ray pictures**.



## Results

The Speech Therapist will tell you what you can **eat** and **drink**.



## Results

A **report** will be sent to your **Doctor**.



## Risks

**Food** and **drink** could go into your **lungs**.
This could give you a **chest infection**.
This is a **small** risk.



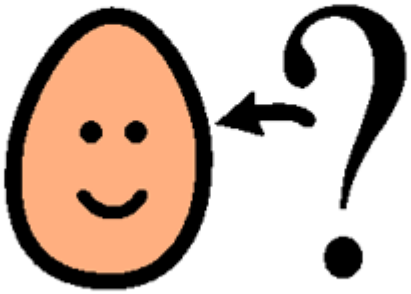
## Risks

X-ray uses **radiation**.
This is a **small** risk.



## If you don't have the Videofluoroscopy

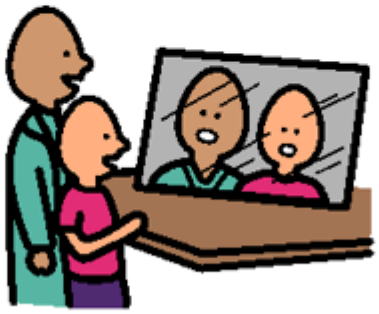
The Speech and Language Therapist **won't know** if your swallow is **safe**.



## If you don't have the Videofluoroscopy

The Speech and Language Therapist **won't know** the **best exercises** to give.

**Exercises** can **help** your swallow get **better**.



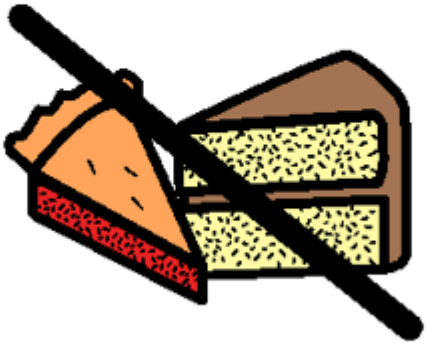
## If you don't have the Videofluoroscopy

You can **choose** not to have the **x-ray**.



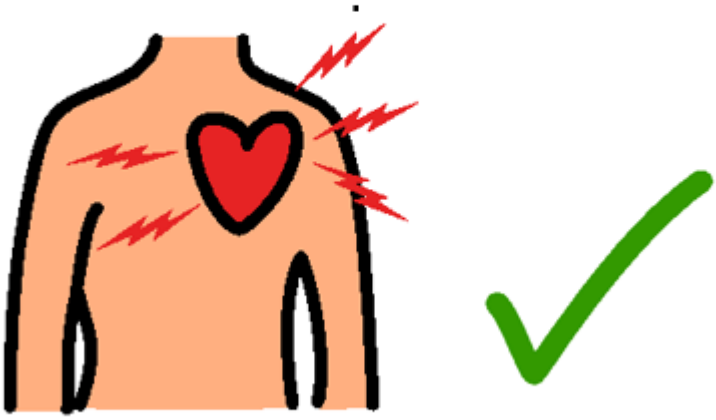
## Other information

Tell a member of **staff** if you have any **allergies** or **special diet**.



## Other information

You can still have the x-ray if you have a **pacemaker**.



# Contact

Speech and Language Therapy Department:

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