

FAUQUIER HOSPITAL

MEDICAL IMAGING DEPARTMENT

www.fauquierhealth.org

Questions? Call 540-316-4500

Upper GI and Small Bowel Exams Patient Information and Preparation

Your physician has requested that you have an upper GI and/or a small bowel exam(s).

Your appointment: _____ at _____
(date) (time)

- *You **must** have a copy of the physician order with you on the day of your examination.*
- *Women who are pregnant, or suspect they may be pregnant, should not have any x-ray examination without consulting their physician.*

Questions about your medical history, including current medications and allergy information will be asked on the day of the exam. Please have a list of medications with you on the day of your exam.

What is an UPPER GI (UGI) examination?

An upper GI examination uses a combination of x-rays and an oral contrast mixture called barium to visualize the upper digestive tract (esophagus, stomach, and the first part of your small intestine).

How do I prepare for my UPPER GI examination?

Wear loose, comfortable clothing. Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before the exam. Do not eat breakfast, smoke or chew gum before your examination. If you are a diabetic and taking medication (Insulin), you may want to skip your morning dose, since you will not be eating breakfast.

The success of your exam depends on you. Food in your system may require the radiologist to cancel the test. You will be asked to change into a robe and to bring your clothing and all belongings into the exam room with you.

What can I expect during the UPPER GI and / or SMALL BOWEL examination?

A radiologist (M.D.) performs the exam with the assistance of a registered radiologic technologist. The technologist will explain the procedure in detail and answer any questions you may have prior to the start of the exam. During the exam you will be asked to drink barium. The radiologist will take x-rays during the procedure while you are drinking the barium. Once the radiologist is finished with his or her part of the exam, the technologist may take additional images.

A small bowel exam can and may be done without the upper GI. In this case, you will drink the barium as instructed by a radiologist and x-rays will be performed at timed intervals. At the end of the exam, the radiologist will perform final imaging.

Each upper GI exam is different, but most exams take 30 minutes. A small bowel examination consists of several x-rays at timed intervals. It may take up to four (4) hours to complete.

What kind of effects will the UPPER GI / SMALL BOWEL examination have?

There are no ill effects. You may resume normal activity. To prevent constipation, you are encouraged to drink plenty of liquids, *especially water* for several days after your exam.

How do I find out the results of my examination?

Your exam result will be reviewed and interpreted by the radiologist who will send a report to your physician. The physician who ordered the tests will give you the results.