

Patient Instructions

Patient name

Date of procedure

Time of procedure

Small Bowel Study

Please report to the Radiology Department on the 3rd floor at Christie Clinic, 101 W. University Ave. in Champaign. 217-366-1285.

What does this test show?

Your doctor has ordered an x-ray to examine your small bowel. The small bowel is the portion of your bowel that extends from your stomach to the large intestine (colon). These x-rays will allow the doctor to observe and record the actual condition and function of your small bowel.

What will happen during the procedure?

In the examination room, you will drink barium. Barium is a thick, creamy, white liquid. The barium will outline your intestines and will help to determine how your small bowel is functioning. The Technologist and Radiologist will take a series of images after you drink the barium. The Radiologist will take an additional set of images once the barium has reached the end of your small bowel (ileum) and the beginning of the large intestine.

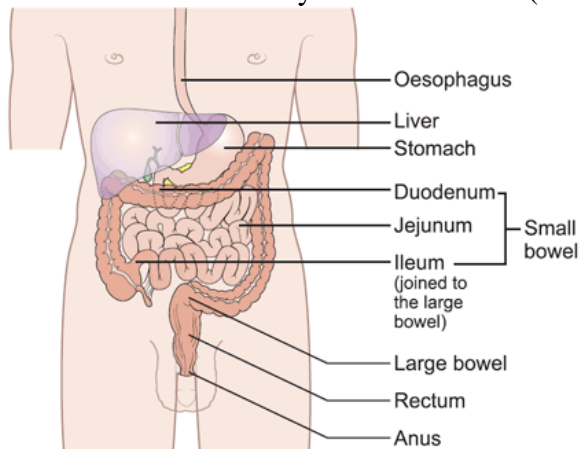


Diagram showing small bowel
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How do I prepare for the examination?

You will have nothing to eat or drink after midnight before your exam.

After the examination

The radiologist will interpret your x-ray films and send the report to your physician. The technologist will instruct you to resume your normal diet and drink plenty of water. The barium will be eliminated from your body in one-three days, resulting in “white” stool. It is not required, but you may take a stool softener if needed. If you do not have a bowel movement within three days, please call your physician.

How long will this exam take?

This exam can take anywhere from 1-1/2 to 4 hours.

Why does this exam take so long?

The length of the exam will depend on how fast the barium moves through your bowel. When you eat or drink, your intestinal tract begins a series of rhythmic contractions (peristalsis). These contractions help with digestion by moving food through your system. Each persons transit time is different. You may be asked to walk up and down a hallway to help the barium move quicker. The Radiologist will complete the exam when the barium gets to the end of the small bowel.

How do I get the results?

Your physician will contact you by phone or mail as soon as your test results are received and reviewed.

Please return for a follow-up appointment with

Dr. _____

On _____ at _____

If you have not received your result in two weeks following this study, please contact your physician’s office.

Note to women of childbearing age: Ideally, an abdominal radiological examination of women of childbearing age should be performed during the first days following the onset of menses (period). This will minimize the possibility of irradiation of an embryo. In practice, medical needs should be the primary factors in deciding the timing of the examination. If there is any possibility that you may be pregnant, please inform your physician.