

Patient Instructions



Patient name

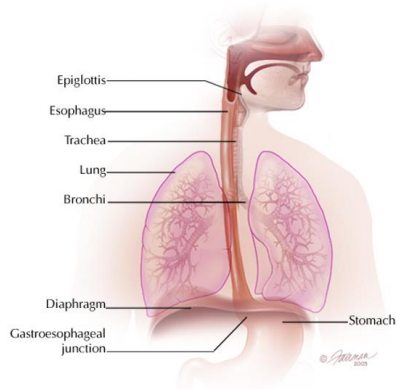
Date and Time of procedure

Esophagus Study (Esophagram)

Please check in at the registration desks on the first floor, then report to the Radiology Department on the 3rd floor at Christie Clinic, 101 W. University Ave. in Champaign. If you need to contact us before your exam, call 217-366-1285.

What does this test show?

Your doctor has ordered an x-ray to examine your esophagus. The esophagus is the portion of your gastro-intestinal tract that carries food from your mouth to your stomach. These x-rays will allow the doctor to observe and record the actual condition and function of your esophagus.



How do I prepare for this exam?

You should have nothing to eat or drink after midnight before your exam. For children under two years old, they should have nothing to eat or drink for four hours before the exam.

What will happen during the exam?

In the examination room, you will drink barium. Barium is a thick, creamy, white liquid. The barium will outline your esophagus and will help to determine how your esophagus

is functioning. The technologist and radiologist will take a series of images as you are drinking the barium. You will be standing for the first part of this test. You will be asked to take a mouth full of the barium and swallow. The Radiologist will take a picture as you swallow. After you drink the barium, the radiologist will step out of the room and the technologist will take additional images with you lying down on the table. You may be asked to drink more of the barium as the technologist takes these additional images.

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 to 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 with the exam take?

This exam will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

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 results in one week 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.