

Small Bowel Exam

Patient Education & Preparation Instructions

What Happens During a Small Bowel Exam?

An x-ray of the small intestine is called a dedicated small bowel exam.

You will be required to drink three to four cups of a liquid called barium. The barium coats the inside of your intestines and enables the radiologist to examine the small bowel.

After drinking the barium, x-ray pictures will be taken of your abdomen at timed intervals approximately every 15 to 20 minutes. The length of time it takes to complete your exam will depend on the time it takes for the barium to pass through your small intestine. This varies from person to person.

How do I Prepare for the Procedure?

You should tell your doctor about any allergies you have to foods or medications, as well as any recent illnesses or other medical conditions, or if you have asthma.

If you are diabetic, make sure your doctor is aware of our condition and the medications you take. Women should always inform their doctor or x-ray technologist if there is any possibility that they are pregnant.

Your doctor will give you detailed instructions on how to prepare for your exam. You will be instructed not to eat or drink after midnight the night before your exam. You may also be asked to take a mild laxative (in pill and liquid form) the evening before the procedure. The laxatives are available over-the-counter. Follow the instructions on the container.

Typical Preparation Instructions:

Adult:

Day before exam: Clear liquid diet

5:30 pm - one bottle (10 oz) lemon-flavored magnesium citrate*

7:30 pm - four 5mg bisacodyl tablets*

Day of exam: Nothing to eat or drink

Do one bisacodyl suppository* Follow instructions on packaging

** These items can be purchased over the counter at your local pharmacy.*

Child:

Age 0-1: Nothing to eat or drink after 6 am the day of the exam.

Age 1-5: No solid food after midnight the night before. Small amount of clear liquids may be taken until 7 am the day of the exam. Essential medications may be taken with small sips of water.

Age 6-12: Clear liquids for supper the night before. No food or drink after midnight the night before. Essential medications may be taken with small sips of water the morning of the exam.

Age 13+ Give the adult preparation unless child is under 100 pounds, in which case, the 6-12 year preparation should be given.

Once you arrive at the Aspirus Riverview Hospital Imaging Services Department, you will be asked to change into a gown before your examination. You will also be asked to remove any jewelry, eyeglasses or any metal objects that could obscure the images. Underwear with metallic components should also be removed.

To avoid appointment delays, pre-registration is required prior to your date of service. Please see "Special Instructions."

How Long Will the Procedure Take?

Though the procedure is painless, it is time-consuming, often taking two to four hours to complete. Please allow adequate time in your schedule for waiting.

If you are pregnant, or think you may be pregnant, tell the technologist before the test.

When Will I Get the Results?

The results of your test will be available to your physician the following day. If you have any questions or concerns, please call your doctor or Aspirus Riverview Hospital's Imaging Services Department at 715-421-7430.

Who Interprets the Results and How Do I Get Them?

A radiologist will interpret the images and forward a report to the physician who ordered the test. You will then most likely meet with your physician to learn of the results of the procedure. Depending on the interpretation, you and your physician will determine the next course of action, such as treatment for an abnormality, if necessary.

Aspirus Riverview Hospital Imaging Services Department 715-421-7430

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

**Stop by the Registration Department in Aspirus Riverview Hospital's Lobby Rotunda
Monday-Thursday 8 am-5:30 pm; Friday 8 am-5 pm; Or call 715-421-7499**

If you are unable to keep your appointment, please let Aspirus Riverview Hospital's Imaging Services Department know as soon as possible. Should you be admitted to the hospital, please inform your physician about your appointment.



RIVERVIEW HOSPITAL
410 Dewey Street, P.O. Box 8080
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-8080
aspirus.org