

# Southernex



Imaging Group Ltd

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## **BARIUM ENEMA**

### Patient Information

**This procedure is an examination of the large bowel (colon). It is carried out by a radiologist (a doctor trained in reading x-rays) and a radiographer (medical imaging technologist). The examination demonstrates the anatomy of the bowel and also gives an indication of its function.**

There are many reasons why this procedure may be requested and why it is appropriate for you. This will have been explained to you by your doctor.

This examination requires special equipment to enable the radiologist to watch on a television monitor. This equipment is not available in all our x-ray rooms and so you may need to go to a particular location.

#### **Preparation**

You will need to prepare for this procedure using the special preparation kit available from your doctor or our rooms. This will clearly explain the need to have the bowel correctly prepared using laxatives and a suppository, commencing the day before the examination.

#### **Examination Time**

This procedure will take approximately 45 minutes.

#### **Procedure**

You will be asked to change into a gown for this procedure to ensure that there are no confusing shadows from your clothing on the films.

You will lie on the X-ray table and a small flexible, lubricated tube is placed into the bowel opening. You should not be concerned that this may slip out during the examination but, if you have difficulty in keeping the tube in place, a special tube with a small inflatable cuff at the end can be used.

A mixture of barium and air is passed into the bowel through the tubing. The air is used to help the barium fluid flow around the bowel, and you are turned into varying positions (e.g. on to your stomach or your side), both lying down and standing to help this take place.

Good images of the lining of the bowel are gained when it is coated with barium and distended by the air. Therefore, good distension with air is very important in early detection of bowel problems. You will be asked to hold your breath for a couple of seconds when films are being taken.

There is usually some discomfort during this procedure but as soon as the films have been taken most of the fluid and air are drained away and the tube is removed and you can go to the toilet before dressing.

The films and report will be ready to collect after 1 hour or they can be delivered direct to your doctor.

**For further enquiries about this procedure, contact our rooms at:**

Caboolture (07) 5495 2077

Clayfield (07) 3262 8588

Gympie (07) 5482 1196

Hervey Bay (07) 4124 3133

Ipswich (07) 3812 8611

Maryborough (07) 4121 2767

Nambour (07) 5441 3677

Noosa Junction (07) 5447 2312

Strathpine (07) 3881 2888

The Wesley Hospital (07) 3371 9588

**[www.southernxray.com.au](http://www.southernxray.com.au)**

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