



PATIENT INFORMATION – BARIUM ENEMA

Here are some answers to questions commonly asked about a barium enema.

If you have any further questions, please ask your referring doctor, or the staff at Illawarra Radiology Group

YOUR APPOINTMENT TIME IS:

TIME

DATE

DAY

What is a barium enema?

This is an examination to visualise the large bowel or colon. To demonstrate this adequately, you will need to follow a preparation to empty the bowel.

This will be given to you when making your appointment.

How do I make an appointment?

Please call in or phone the branches listed below most convenient for you.

If you have any special needs, e.g. diabetes, please notify the staff when making your appointment

Shellharbour , Professional centre,
Shellharbour Square
tel 42967222

Warrarong , Shop 101, Cowper St, Westfield
Shopping Town
tel 42746855

Wollongong, 383 Crown St, Wollongong
tel 42287888

Corrimal, 83 Railway St., Corrimal
tel 42852119

When is it used?

There are some conditions that can be examined using this procedure. Your referring doctor will explain why this is appropriate for you. The examination demonstrates the anatomy of the large bowel and also gives an indication of possible abnormalities

Do I need to do anything?

When you make an appointment, you will be given instructions on how to prepare your bowel. This will include a special diet and a laxative drink.

The examination is usually takes about half an hour.

What happens?

To see the bowel, the radiologist will use a mixture of liquid barium and air which is run into the bowel via a small tube inserted into the back passage.

Optimal visualisation of the lining of the bowel is gained when coated with barium and distended by air. This will give you the feeling of being full of “wind”. During the procedure, you will be asked to lie on the x-ray table and roll into a variety of positions to ensure the bowel is well coated with barium and air mixture

As soon as all the films have been taken, most of the air and fluid are drained away, the tube is removed and you may go to the toilet.

This will relieve any discomfort you may be feeling.

After the test, it is advisable to drink extra fluids for several days to help clear the barium from your bowel.

You may eat normally.

Will I feel anything?

There may be some discomfort during the procedure. The radiologist may need to give you a small injection of buscopan to relax the bowel.

Are there any side effects?

The injection of buscopan may cause blurred vision for about 15 minutes. If this happens, do not drive until vision is clear.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR REFERRAL AND ANY PREVIOUS FILMS WITH YOU.