

Upper GI (Including Barium Swallow & Esophagram)

Description

An Upper GI also known as UGI or upper gastrointestinal tract radiography, is an X-ray examination of the pharynx (mouth/ oral), esophagus (throat), stomach and first part of the small intestine (also known as the duodenum). The exam uses a special form of x-ray called fluoroscopy and a contrast material called barium. In addition to drinking barium, some patients are also given baking-soda crystals to further improve the images. This procedure is called an air-contrast or double-contrast upper GI.

What does the equipment look like?



Examples of the Table, Fluoroscopic Image Intensifier, and Overhead X-ray Tube.

Reasons for having an UGI

An upper GI examination helps evaluate digestive function and to detect ulcers, ulcers, hiatal hernias, scarring, blockages, and inflammation of the esophagus, stomach and duodenum. It can also help image abnormalities of the muscular wall of gastrointestinal tissues.

How do I prepare for a UGI?

Please leave your jewelry and valuables at home. Please wear comfortable clothing with no metal or zippers to the exam. You may be asked to remove some or all of your clothes and to wear a gown during the exam. You may also be asked to remove jewelry, eyeglasses and any metal objects or clothing that might interfere with the x-ray images.

- Nothing to eat or drink (NPO) after midnight.
- Can be scheduled as early as 8:30 AM.
- Approximate duration for exam is 30 minutes.

UGI with Small Bowel Follow Through

- Nothing to eat or drink (NPO) after midnight.
- If ordered with small bowel follow-through, then the approximate duration of the procedure is 1-6 hours.
- Appointment will be scheduled as early as 8:30 AM and no later than 9:30 due to length of the procedure.

Esophagram

There are no special prep instructions. No fasting is required. If you are having an UGI in conjunction with your esophagram, follow the guidelines listed for the UGI.

If there are any questions, do not hesitate to call (626) 397-5139.