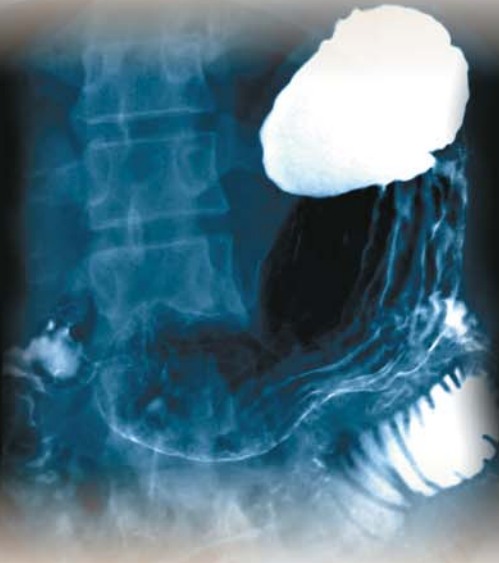




Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital

Barium Swallow Barium Meal



Department of Diagnostic &
Interventional Radiology

Barium Swallow / Barium Meal

This is an X-ray examination of the food pipe (oesophagus), the stomach and the duodenum (the first part of the small bowel). It involves swallowing barium to outline these organs.

Contrast Medium :

Barium, an inert substance is used to outline the GI tract. Barium will not be absorbed by the body and will be excreted through the GI tract.

Indication :

Barium Swallow

Suspected pathology in the oesophagus such as tumour, ulcers, inflammation or foreign body.

Barium Meal

Suspected pathology in stomach and duodenum.

Procedure :

This is a non-invasive procedure. The patient will be instructed to drink barium. A series of X-rays with the patient in different positions will then be taken.

Patient Preparation :

- Adult patient should fast for 12 hours before the examination.
- For paediatric patient under the age of 3 years, omit the last meal.
- Parents should accompany paediatric patients.
- For Diabetic patients, please inform the x-ray staff upon arrival.

After Procedure

- Barium will be passed out through the GI tract. Your faeces may become white in colour.
- Plentiful of fluid intake is recommended to help relieve constipation.

2 Village Road Happy Valley Hong Kong

Tel : 2835 8900 Fax : 2835 8045