

Barium Enema

The lowest part of the bowel is called the large intestine. It includes the colon and rectum. A barium enema is an x-ray of the large intestine.

Your child's Barium Enema x-ray is scheduled for (date) _____ at (time) _____ in the Imaging (Radiology) Department on the first floor of Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. Please stop at a Welcome desk for a badge and directions to Imaging.

Special preparation

If you know, or think your child has constipation, hirschprung, ulcerative colitis, intussusception, renal failure or diabetes insipidus, please use the guide below which is based on your child's age:

- 0 to 6 months of age. Nothing to eat or drink 3 hours before the exam.
- 7 months to 3 years of age. Nothing to eat or drink 4 hours before the exam.
- 3 years of age and older. Nothing to eat or drink 6 hours before the exam.

If your child does not have any of the problems listed above please use the guide below. Your child's bowels need to be cleaned for this test.

- 0 to 6 months. Give your infant a ½ Dulcolax® suppository the evening before the test, and again the morning of the test. You can buy this at your local drug store. Infants should have nothing to eat or drink 3 hours before the test.
- 7 months to 3 years of age. Give your child a whole Dulcolax® suppository the evening before the test, and a Fleet enema the morning of the test. You can buy these items at your local drug store. Your child should have nothing to eat or drink 4 hours before the test.
- 4 years and older. Use a Fleets Kit #3. You can buy this at your local drug store. Please read and follow the instructions that come with the kit. Your child should have nothing to eat or drink 6 hours before the test.



Important information

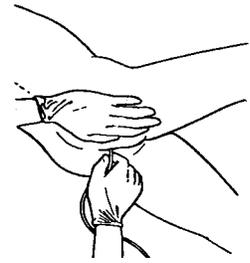
- **It is important that you follow these special instructions.** If your child eats or drinks anything after the times listed above, **the scan may be cancelled.**
- If your child had x-rays or other images such as a CT, MRI, Nuclear Medicine or Ultrasound done somewhere other than Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, please bring copies of the images when your child has their test.

Before the x-ray

When you come to Imaging, someone will greet you. Your child will put on a hospital gown and robe. Then you will wait in the waiting area. A person skilled in taking x-rays, called a technologist will talk with you about the test. Please be sure to ask any questions you have.

How the procedure is done

- Your child will lie on a table in the x-ray room. There will be a doctor and a technologist in the room with your child.
- A small tube will be put in the rectum. The tube is attached to a bag filled with dye. It is also called contrast. This dye allows the colon to be seen on x-ray.
- The doctor will tell the technologist to let some of the dye from the bag slowly run into the large intestine. This will make your child feel very full. Your child will need to try very hard not to let any of the dye come out.
- A special camera is used to watch the dye as it goes into your child's large intestine. The camera can see the dye inside of the body. A doctor who specializes in taking and reading x-rays will watch the picture on a TV screen. This doctor is called a radiologist. You and your child will be able to see the picture too.
- After the doctor is done watching the dye in the large intestine, the technologist will take a picture. Your child may need to hold their breath for the picture. The pictures do not hurt.
- After the pictures your child can go to the bathroom. When your child comes out of the bathroom, one more picture will be taken. The doctor will check the x-rays while you wait.



This whole test takes about 30 minutes.

Parents: If you wish to stay with your child during the exam you must meet the safety guidelines. For example, you cannot have other children with you and you must not be pregnant.

Follow-up care

Have your child drink plenty of fluids.

Results

The radiologist reviews all films at the end of each test. A report is sent to your child's doctor. If any questions should arise, the radiologist may contact your child's doctor before you leave the hospital. The doctor will discuss the results with you.

ALERT: Call your child's doctor, nurse, or clinic if you have any questions or concerns or if your child has:

- A hard time pooping (constipated).
- Special health care needs that were not covered by this information.

This teaching sheet is meant to help you care for your child. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.