

## Risks and benefits

Everyone is exposed to ionising radiation (for example from gamma rays from space, air travel, natural radiation from the ground) all the time. This is one of the causes of cancer and other illnesses. This test will give your child a small extra dose of ionising radiation. Your Doctors have taken this into account when asking your child to have this test, and believe that this the best test for you or your child.

Girls of 12 years and over will be asked to tell us the first day of their last menstrual period so that we can avoid giving radiation to an unborn baby unless it is absolutely necessary for the test to work. This is because the risk is slightly greater for unborn children.

You can get more information about the risks and benefits of X-rays from [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) or [www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk). Go to the homepages and search for 'X-rays'.

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Monday – Friday  
[www.mft.nhs.uk](http://www.mft.nhs.uk)

## No Smoking Policy

Please protect our patients, visitors and staff by adhering to our no smoking policy. Smoking is not permitted in any of our hospital buildings or grounds, except in the dedicated smoking shelters in the grounds of our Hospital site.

For advice and support on how to give up smoking, go to [www.nhs.uk/smokefree](http://www.nhs.uk/smokefree).

## Translation and Interpretation Service

It is our policy that family, relatives or friends cannot interpret for patients. Should you require an interpreter ask a member of staff to arrange it for you.

تتص سياستنا على عدم السماح لافراد عائلة المرضى او اقاربهم او اصدقائهم بالترجمة لهم. اذا احتجت الى مترجم فيرجي ان تطلب ذلك من احد العاملين ليرتب لك ذلك.

بماری یہ پالیسی ہے کہ خاندان، رشتہ دار اور دوست مریضوں کے لئے ترجمہ نہیں کر سکتے۔ اگر آپ کو مترجم کی ضرورت ہے تو عملے کے کسی رکن سے کہیں کہ وہ آپ کے لئے اس کا بندوبست کر دے۔

ইহা আমাদের নীতি যে, একজন রোগীর জন্য তার পরিবারের সদস্য, আত্মীয় বা কোন বন্ধু অনুবাদক হতে পারবেন না। আপনার একজন অনুবাদকের প্রয়োজন হলে তা একজন কর্মচারীকে জানান অনুবাদকের ব্যবস্থা করার জন্য।

Nasze zasady nie pozwalają na korzystanie z pomocy członków rodzin pacjentów, ich przyjaciół lub ich krewnych jako tłumaczy. Jeśli potrzebują Państwo tłumacza, prosimy o kontakt z członkiem personelu, który zorganizuje go dla Państwa.

Waa nidaamkeena in qoys, qaraabo amaasaaxii boaysanu tarjumikarin bukaanka. Haddiiaad baahatotarjumaankacodsoxubinka mid ah shaqaalaha inay ku sameeyaan.

我们的方针是，家属，亲戚和朋友不能为病人做口译。如果您需要口译员，请叫员工给您安排。



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[www.mft.nhs.uk](http://www.mft.nhs.uk)



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# Barium Enema

Royal Manchester Children's Hospital  
Division of Imaging



# What is a barium enema?

**This is an X-ray test that looks at how the bowel (intestines) are working.**

## What do I need to do before bringing my child to the hospital?

Barium enemas are performed in the X-ray Department. During the test the Radiologist (X-ray doctor) will take pictures of your child's large bowel (the lower part of the intestine).

### To make sure the images are of good quality:

- Your child should avoid eating foods with lots of fibre in them, for example, bread the day before the test.
- Should not have breakfast on the morning of the test.
- Your child may drink clear fluids, for example, juice, squash or water before the test.
- Children who are still bottle/breast fed should not be fed for at least an hour before the test.

## What will happen in the hospital?

If your child is in nappies you will be asked to get your child changed into a hospital gown. Older children may wish to go to the toilet and will then also need to change into a gown.

You and your child will come into the examination room. We will also ask mothers or other female carers if they could be pregnant. If you are pregnant, we suggest you bring another member of the family with you, to be with your child during the X-ray instead. Your child will need to lie on the couch and will then be asked to turn on their side whilst the radiologist passes a thin soft plastic tube just a few centimetres into their back passage. The tube will be taped in place and barium solution is run through the tube and around the large bowel.

This is not painful but may be slightly uncomfortable just while the tube is going in. Once it is in place, that feeling should go away.

Barium is a harmless thick, white liquid that shows up very well on X-rays. The Radiologist follows its progress with the X-ray camera. This may involve changing your child's position.

The radiologist will take a limited series of X-ray pictures. You will be able to see the pictures on the TV screen.

You will need to wear a protective apron if you stay with your child during the investigation.

## What happens after the test?

When enough pictures have been taken, your child will be able to get off the scanning bed, get dressed and go home.

Older children will want to go to the toilet straight away. Babies and infants will pass the barium on the couch or into their nappies in the next few hours. In all children barium may be visible in the bowel motions for up to two days.

Your child should have plenty to drink after the test, as barium can cause constipation.

The radiologist performing the examination may be able to give you a provisional result of the test, but often the images are reviewed with other tests your child may be having. In this case a final report will be sent to your referring Doctor within a few days.