

Division of Imaging

Information for Carers/Patients

Paediatric Barium Enema

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.

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.

Will my child feel any pain?

This examination 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.

Are there any risks with this examination?

Radiation risk

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.

Children 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 or www.hpa.org.uk. Go to the homepages and search for 'X-rays'.

Contrast risk

We might need to give you contrast dye to make areas of your body show up more clearly.

The radiographers will complete a checklist to ensure it is safe for your child to have the dye and you will be asked to sign this form as a consent, the specific side effects are documented on the checklists that you complete.

The contrast dye that is sometimes used can cause allergic reactions however the staff available will be checking for any risks before we proceed.

Do I need to give my permission (consent)?

The radiologist will ask if you are happy for the examination to go ahead. This is called verbal consent.

If you do not wish to have the examination or are undecided, please ask the radiologist so that they can answer any questions you may have.

Remember, it is your decision. You can change your mind at any time and your wishes will be respected.

However, not having the examination may delay your diagnosis as the referring clinician may not have all the needed information.

How long will it take?

Usually, the examination takes up to 30 to 60 minutes.

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.

When will I get my child's results?

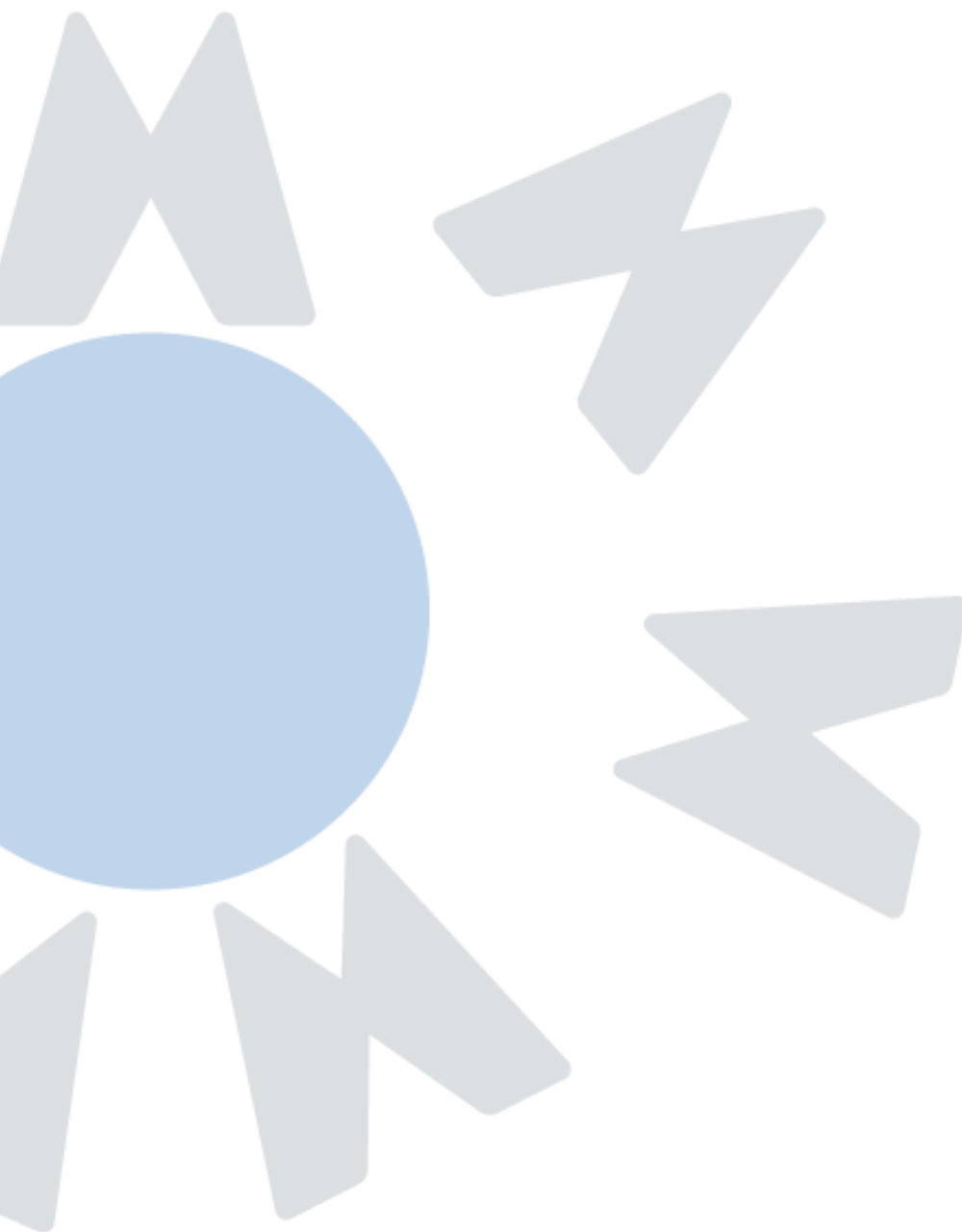
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What should I do if there is a problem?

If you feel your child's condition has changed, or you need further medical advice before receiving your results/after leaving the hospital, please make an appointment with the doctor that referred your child, or in an emergency, go to your nearest Emergency Department (ED).

How can I provide feedback for the appointment I have attended today?

The Division of Imaging welcomes feedback from all our patients. We actively take part in the Friends and Family Test, and we complete a patient experience questionnaire every month to obtain feedback on the experiences you have had. Please speak to a member of staff regarding the feedback or there are posters within the department with QR codes so you can complete these online.



Contact us

For contact information please refer to your appointment letter or if you are an inpatient, please direct your queries to one of the medical staff on the ward

Language and accessible support services:

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch.

Your comments and concerns

If you would like to provide feedback you can:

- Ask to speak to the department lead / manager.
- Write to us: Patient Advice and Liaison Services, 1st Floor, Cobbett House, Manchester Royal Infirmary, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9WL.
- Log onto the Patient Opinion website www.patientopinion.org.uk/ click on 'Tell your Story'

If you would like to discuss a concern or make a complaint:

Ask to speak to the department manager – they may be able to help straight away. Inpatients can speak to a senior nurse or manager by contacting the Tell Us Today service on (0161) 701 1999.

Contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (0161) 276 8686 email: pals@mft.nhs.uk. Ask for our information leaflet.

We welcome your feedback so we can continue to improve our services.

NHS 111

This service offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day.

Telephone: 111, 24 hours a day
Website: www.111.nhs.uk

Finally

Some of your questions should have been answered by this leaflet but remember that this is only a starting point for discussion about your treatment with the doctors looking after you. Further information can be obtained by contacting the radiology department that is performing the procedure. Do satisfy yourself that you have received enough information about the procedure before you sign the consent form.