

Patient information

Small Bowel Examination – Appointment Details

Imaging Department

Before Your Examination

It is very important that your stomach and small bowel are completely empty.

Please follow these instructions carefully on the day before the examination:

- Have a normal breakfast and lunch.
- From 1.00pm have nothing more to eat until after the examination.
- Drink plenty of fluids until 11.00pm.
- After 11.00pm have nothing to eat or drink.

If you are have diabetes and take tablets or insulin please contact the X-ray department as soon as you receive this appointment.

Your hospital doctor or family doctor (GP) has advised that you need a Small Bowel Examination. You may wish to discuss alternative treatments or procedures. Please ask a doctor or nurse if alternative treatments or procedures are available.

What is a small bowel examination?

A small bowel examination uses X-rays and a white liquid called barium to examine the small bowel. It is carried out by a Radiologist (a doctor who specialises in X-rays).

What are the benefits of having a small bowel examination?

This procedure will help us make the correct diagnosis so we will be able to give you the correct treatment.

The risks of having a small bowel examination include:

- We are all exposed to natural background radiation every day of our lives. Each X-ray examination gives us a small additional dose. This dose varies with each type of examination. Everything is done within the X-ray department to minimise this dose.

- X-rays may be harmful to an unborn child, especially in the earlier stages of pregnancy. This **will not** apply if:
 - You are taking the “Pill”
 - You have been sterilised or had a hysterectomy.
 - You have been fitted with a coil (IUD).
 - Your husband or partner has had a vasectomy.
 - Your appointment date is within ten days of the start of your last menstrual period.

If you are worried about any of these risks, please speak to your Doctor or a member of their team.

The examination

There are different ways of giving you the barium:-

- By passing a small tube down the nose and into the oesophagus (food pipe) and directly into the stomach and small bowel. The white barium liquid goes through this tube and into your small bowel. The radiologist or specialist radiographer will take X-ray pictures and watch the barium as it goes through the small bowel using a special TV monitor.

This examination takes about 30 –40 minutes.

- By drinking the barium and waiting for the barium to pass into the small bowel. A simple abdominal X-ray is taken at timed intervals until the barium reaches the end of the small bowel and the start of the large bowel. At this point the radiologist or specialist radiographer will take further X-rays using a special TV monitor.

This examination can take anything up to five hours depending on how quickly it takes for the barium to reach the end of the small bowel. Everybody is different - some patients may be quicker than others. The radiologist or specialist radiographer will decide which is the best way for you.

After the examination

- When the examination is complete you will be able to eat and drink normally and you can start to take any of your usual medication.
- The barium can cause constipation for a day or so afterwards. This can be avoided by drinking plenty of fluids. You may notice that your motions are paler than usual – this is due to the barium.
- If you are allowed unlimited drinks, an extra pint of fluid per day over the next couple of days will help pass the barium.

Results

The results of your X-ray examination will be sent to the doctor who requested the examination.

Cancellations

If you are unable to keep this appointment, please let us know as soon as possible and we will arrange another for you.

If you fail to cancel and do not attend you will not be sent another appointment.

Transport

If you have been referred to us from clinic and usually have an ambulance to bring you for your appointment, please contact the Appointments Office as soon as possible.

If you have been referred to us by your GP and require an ambulance please contact your GP surgery.

Car parking

Car parking for visitors and patients is available at the Q-Park multi-storey car park located across the road from the front entrance of the hospital. Vehicle entry to the car park is on Epworth Street which is off Erskine Street. The car park is open 24 hours a day seven days a week and charges apply. The car park is continually monitored by CCTV and parking attendants.

There are disabled spaces within the car park. If you require help with parking ask a parking host at the car park entrance. There is a bus shuttle service for patients with mobility problems which operates Monday to Friday 8.45am to 4.45pm from Q-Park to the Royal Liverpool University Hospital.

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Further Information

If you have any further questions, or require further information, please contact the Appointments Office:

Tel: 0151 706 2759

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 2759

NHS 111 Service

Tel: 111

Author: Imaging Department

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All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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در صورت تمایل میتوانید کلیه اطلاعات تصویب شده توسط اتحادیه در رابطه با بیماران را به اشکال مختلف در دسترس داشته باشید، از جمله به زبانهای دیگر، به زبان ساده، چاپ درشت، صوت، خط مخصوص کوران، مون و بصورت روی خطی موجود است.

زانیاری پیوندیدار بهو نهخوشانهی له لایمن تراستوه پسمند کراون، نهگمر داوا بکرنیت له فورماتیکانی تردا بریتی له زمانهکائی تر، نیزی رید (هاسان خویندنهوه)، چاپی گموره، شریتی دنگ، هیللی موون و نلیکترونیککی همیه.

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Dhammaan warbixinta bukaanleyda ee Ururka ee la oggol yahay waxaa marka la codsado lagu heli karaa nuskhado kale, sida luqado kale, akhris fudud, far waaweyn, dhegeysi, farta braille ee dadka indhaha la', Moon iyo nidaam eletaroonig ah.