UGI
Upper GI Series

Information for our patients
and their families

St. Vincent's
EAST
Department of Imaging Services

205 | 838 | 3435

PLEASE
INFORM THE TECHNOLOGIST
IF YOU ARE PREGNANT

OR
IF YOU HAVE ANY ALLERGIES

Upper GI Series

The Upper GI Series is a Radiology exam that utilizes Fluoroscopy and a series of X-ray images to examine the esophagus and stomach. These images can identify and locate ulcers, obstructions, tumors and inflammations.

The exam itself is painless and accurate.
The upper GI exam will only take a few minutes. However, the upper GI with the Small Bowel series can take up to several hours.
The technologist will keep you informed with a more accurate time of your exam.

Preparing for the Upper GI Series

Your health care provider will give you complete instructions.
 Day prior to exam: Avoid food and fluids (NPO) after midnight before the exam.
 Day of the exam: Remain NPO until the exam is complete.
 Avoid smoking and chewing gum before the exam.
 Check with your health care provider about taking any medications before the test.

Clothing

Wear comfortable clothing for the exam. (Example: warm up or jogging suit)
Pleases leave your valuables at home.

The Exam:

The upper GI exam will only take a few minutes.
 You will be on an adjustable table that houses an x-ray tube to visualize your esophagus, stomach, and intestines.
 You may be given gas crystals to help show the barium. You may feel bloated.
 You will be asked to drink a barium solution that is flavored and is thicker than a milkshake.
 Barium is a contrast medium required to highlight the digestive tract of your body.

After the exam:

Get rest if you feel tired.
Be sure to drink plenty of fluids.
Your health-care provider may require a light laxative or enema to prevent constipation.

You may resume your normal diet and medications.
Stools may be light colored. Tell your health care provider if stools have not returned to normal in 2-3 days.

The technologist at St. Vincent’s East Imaging Services are registered with

ARRT
The American Registry of Radiologic Technologist

Results

A Radiologist from the Birmingham Radiological Group (BRG) will review the images and send a report to your physician. Our goal is to complete interpretation within 24 hours of the completion of your exam and in most cases it is completed the same day of your exam.

Your physician will evaluate the results of your exam and determine the best course of care. Unfortunately, our associates are not able to discuss the images that they perform with you personally. Your healthcare provider will communicate these results to you and help answer any questions that you may have.

If you have not received your results within a few days of your exam please contact your health care provider directly.