Small Bowel Series

Information for our patients and their families

PLEASE INFORM THE TECHNOLOGIST IF YOU ARE PREGNANT

OR

IF YOU HAVE ANY ALLERGIES
Small Bowel Series

The Small Bowel Series is a Radiology exam that utilizes Fluoroscopy and a series of X-ray images to examine the small intestines. These images can identify and locate ulcers, obstructions, tumors and inflammations.
The exam itself is painless and accurate.
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 Small Bowel 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 Small Bowel Series may take several hours. Bring something to read to help pass the time.

- 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.
- A series of X-rays will be performed over a period of time and can take several hours before your exam is completed the technologist will keep you informed.

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

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**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.