



Procedure Information

Water Soluble Contrast Swallow and Meal

Introduction

Water Soluble Contrast Swallow and Meal is a radiological examination of imaging the oesophagus and stomach with the introduction of water-soluble contrast (e.g. lopamiro, gastrografin). The procedure is performed by radiologist under fluoroscopy.

Indications

Your doctor may recommend a Water Soluble Contrast Swallow and Meal if you encounter any abnormal symptoms or have concerns, including:

- Assessment of site of perforation (water-soluble contrast should be used)
- Assessment of post-operative complication or check the recovery stage

Procedures

1. You stand erect or sit on the examination table.
2. Radiologist will take a series of x-rays while you are swallowing the water soluble contrast medium. The stomach is distended, and mucosal folds are clear from each other. The mucosal pattern may be demonstrated with the coat of water soluble contrast.
3. You are then asked to roll on the examination table and put in different positions for taking spot films.
4. You may experience abdominal discomfort due to distention of the stomach by water soluble contrast.

Possible Risks and Complications

1. Rare but serious complications:
 - Aspiration of water soluble contrast
 - Allergy to water soluble contrast medium

** The risks listed above are in general terms and the possibility of complications is not exhaustive. Please understand that even though all procedures are carried out with utmost professionalism and care, this does not rule out the possibility of complications arising and may require another operation to deal with the complications.

Pre-procedure Preparations

1. The procedure and possible complications will be explained by the doctor and a consent form must be signed prior to the procedure.
2. Please inform the doctor and nurse all your past medical history, previous surgical operations, current medication and any complication with drug or anaesthesia.
3. Female who are or might be pregnant must inform to the staff.
4. Please bring all relevant imaging films and reports for comparison.
5. No smoking for at least six hours before procedure.
6. No food or drink six hours before procedure.
7. Please change into a surgical gown after removing clothing including undergarments, dentures, and jewellery.

Post-procedure Instructions

1. Please drink plenty of water.
2. You can resume normal activities or follow the doctor's instruction.

Should there be any enquiries or concerns, please consult our department (MEI).

Under the professional care of the doctor, you will gradually recover. We wish you all the best during your treatment and recovery.

If you have any questions after reading the entire leaflet, please write them down in the spaces provided in order for the doctor to further follow-up.

Compiled by Union Hospital Operating Theatre (OT) Governance Committee

The above information is for reference only, please enquire your physician for details
Our Hospital reserves the RIGHT to amend any information in this leaflet without prior notification