



## Procedure Information

### Small Bowel Enema

#### Introduction

Small bowel enema is a radiological examination of imaging the small bowel with the injection of barium contrast and methylcellulose. The procedure is performed by radiologist under fluoroscopy.

#### Indications

Your doctor may recommend a small bowel enema if you encounter any abnormal symptoms or have concerns, including:

- Diarrhea
- Anemia/ gastrointestinal haemorrhage
- Small bowel partial obstruction
- Mal-absorption
- Abdominal mass
- Crohn's disease

#### Procedures

1. The pharynx will be anaesthetized.
2. A small nasogastric tube will be inserted to the duodenum through the nostril, with help of fluoroscopy.
3. Barium contrast and methylcellulose (around 1.5L to 2L, depending on the size of patient) will be injected through the tube.
4. You may experience abdominal discomfort because of the distension of small bowel by methylcellulose.
5. You are then asked to put in different positions for taking spot films.

#### Possible Risks and Complications

1. Rare but serious complications:
  - Aspiration
  - Unexpected perforation of small bowel and leakage of barium contrast and methylcellulose

\*\* 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. If you have recent rectal biopsy, please wait for more than 7 days before the examination.
6. Low residue diet for 2 days.
7. No food or drink six hours before procedure
8. Please change into a surgical gown after removing clothing including undergarments, dentures, and jewellery.
9. Please empty your bladder before the procedure.

## **Post-procedure Instructions**

1. Please drink more water to increase the rate of excretion of contrast medium from the body.
2. Diarrhea and nausea may occur because of volume of fluid introduced.
3. 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.

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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