



Procedure Information

Videofluoroscopic Swallowing Study (VFSS)

Introduction

Videofluoroscopic swallowing study (VFSS) is a dynamic x-ray examination in investigating the anatomical and physiological aspects of the swallowing process. The procedure is performed by radiologist and speech therapist under fluoroscopy.

The examination is contraindicated with suspected gastrointestinal tract perforation.

Indications

Your doctor may recommend a Videofluoroscopic swallowing study (VFSS), if you encounter any abnormal symptoms or have concerns, including:

- Dysphagia
- Suspected esophageal reflux to pharynx
- Suspected silent aspiration

Procedures

1. You will be kept seated position.
2. Several types of food and liquid mixed with barium contrast medium will be prepared by the speech therapist.
3. Under the guidance of the speech therapist, you will swallow the food paste in designed order and a series of x-ray videos will be taken and the process will be documented in a DVD.
4. The swallowing process will be assessed and monitored by the speech therapist and radiologist.

Possible Risks and Complications

1. Rare but serious complications:
 - Leakage of barium from unsuspected perforation
 - Aspiration of barium
 - Allergy to barium 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. Please change into a surgical gown after removing clothing including dentures and jewellery.
6. Please follow the instructions and preparations from speech therapist and your doctor.

Post-procedure Instructions

1. Normal diet can be resumed (follow the doctor's instructions if there are any).
2. The stool may appear white for a few days after the procedure.

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