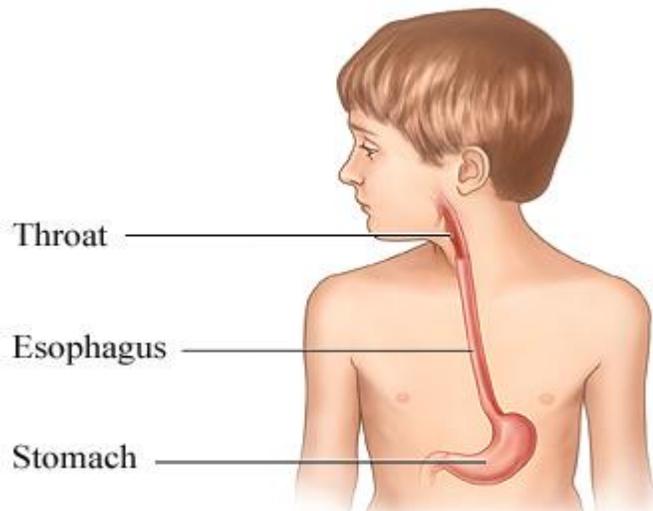


QUICK FACTS:

- An Esophagram is an X-ray of the esophagus at work.
- Your child will be awake throughout this exam.
- This test usually takes between 15-30 minutes.
- Your child can partake in normal activities and diet afterward.



A LITTLE ABOUT OUR BODY:

- When we swallow food and liquids, they enter through our mouth; go down the esophagus, and into the stomach. The esophagus is the tube which connects the mouth to the stomach (see diagram on left). This is what the doctors will be looking at for this exam.
- This Esophagram shows the doctors how the esophagus is working by taking X-ray pictures while your child swallows special liquid called barium.

ABOUT THE ESOPHAGRAM:

- The goal of the exam is to take X-ray pictures of the esophagus while your child is swallowing barium to see how the esophagus is working. Barium is used because of its ability to show up well on X-ray pictures.
- Your child will be asked to lie down on a table while drinking the liquid barium. **If your child is older, or tall, they may be sitting or standing while drinking instead.
- As your child drinks, the barium will begin to pass through the throat and esophagus. X-ray pictures will be taken as the liquid is being swallowed.
- Once the barium has passed through the esophagus, and the Radiologist feels as though they have seen enough of the esophagus at work, the exam is complete.



WORDS TO KNOW:

- Barium: Thick, chalky, liquid contrast. It is think like a milkshake or smoothie. Barium shows up white on X-ray images.

PARENT/ GUARDIAN'S ROLE DURING EXAM:

- Parents and guardians are welcome to be present during exam to support their child.
 - Due to use of radiation, women who believe there is a possibility they may be pregnant or are pregnant will not be allowed in room while X-ray is being used. These women may be with their child during times when radiation will not be used.
- Medical staff will instruct parents/guardians on where to stand while in the room to help the exam run smoothly.
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to help their child relax and keep calm and still during the exam.
- Parents/guardians are also a great help when encouraging the child to swallow liquid barium.
- If your child has any comfort items such as stuffed animals, small handheld toys, or blankets, you are more than welcome to bring those along.



PEOPLE YOU MAY MEET:

- Nurse (RN)
- Radiology Technologist
- Radiologist
- Child Life Specialist*

*Child Life is available depending on your child's appointment time, needs, and developmental level.

AFTER THE EXAM:

- After an Esophagram your child can resume normal activities and diet.
- Your child's bowel movements may look white for the next few days due to the barium. This is normal, and your child should drink plenty of liquids to help their bowel movements return to normal.
- Your child may have some minor constipation, drinking plenty of liquids will help this as well.

ADDITIONAL INFO:

- This informational sheet is to provide basic knowledge of an Esophagram. Exam experiences may vary depending on your child's age or developmental level.
- Your nurse for the exam will explain the exam in detail, so please feel free to ask questions if needed. We as a hospital team are here to support both you and your child throughout your experience.