



## Your Child's Small Bowel meal

# Scanning Department Radiology

## Great Western Hospital

If you need to cancel or you have queries or concerns  
please contact the department on

**01793 60 50 59**

Opening Hours

**Monday - Friday 9.00am – 4.30pm**

# Your Child's Small Bowel Meal

## **What is a Small Bowel Meal?**

It is the examination of that part of the bowel, which extends from below the stomach, to the junction of the large bowel. Your child will be asked to drink some fluid so that this organ can be clearly seen.

Because of the length of time it takes for this fluid to reach the small bowel, the examination can take up to 3 hours.

## **Are there any risks involved?**

The likelihood of complications is extremely rare.

Any concerns you may have can be discussed before we begin the procedure. Alternatively, ring the number given below.

During your procedure you will receive a dose of ionising radiation to help us form images of your body and this will provide your doctor with detailed information.

The radiation dose is always kept as low as possible. The actual dose you receive will vary depending on the type of procedure you are having, but your doctor has considered this and feels that this is the best procedure for you to have to help diagnose or treat your condition.

We are all at risk of developing cancer in our lifetime and the added risk from undergoing your procedure is small and is outweighed because of the benefits it provides and every procedure that you have in Radiology has been assessed to ensure that the benefit outweighs the risk. For more information see the displays within the department or ask a member of staff.



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## **Do I have to have this examination?**

Your doctor has requested this examination, as it is the simplest way of gaining images to diagnose your child's problem.

Any queries please call:-

**The number to ring is: (01793) 60 50 59**

**Monday – Friday 9.30am – 4.30 pm**

## **Before the examination:**

- Your child should have nothing to eat or drink for 4 hours prior to the examination.

## **During the examination:**

- Your child will be asked to drink some Barium and will have to wait approximately 20 minutes before the first xray is taken by the Radiographer.
- Your child will then be called into the xray room and asked to lie on his/her front.
- When this film has been taken, he/she will be returned to the cubicle where you wait until it is time for the next film.
- This will be the first of a series of films taken at timed intervals until the barium has reached the junction of the small bowel and large bowel.

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- One final film may be taken. For this your child will be asked to lay on their front again with a small foam rubber pad placed under the right side.
- There is a slight possibility that it proves difficult for this part of the small bowel to be seen clearly. If this is the case, it will be necessary to transfer to another room where the necessary images can be obtained on a television screen.

## After the examination:

- Your child may return to their normal diet immediately.
- The barium can cause constipation. Drink plenty of fluid for a few days to reduce the possibility of this.
- If your GP sent you, go back to the surgery in 2 weeks.

If a doctor from the hospital sent you, you will receive a letter or a follow up appointment to discuss the results

**This information sheet is available to order in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01793 604031 or email [gwh.pals@nhs.net](mailto:gwh.pals@nhs.net)**

### Document Control

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