



Bowel Transit (Shapes Study)

Radiology Department

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



Bowel Transit (Shapes Study)

What is a bowel transit study?

This is sometimes called a “shapes” study as the enclosed capsules contain different shaped markers which show up on x-ray images.

The purpose of this study is to estimate the time it takes for food to travel through your bowel, after it has left your stomach. It indicates how well your bowel is functioning.

How long does it take?

When you attend for your appointment, you will have a simple x-ray of your abdomen which takes about 5 minutes. Please allow 30 minutes in the department.

Are there any risks involved?

Simple x-rays such as the examination you are having involve extremely low amounts of radiation.

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



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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.

There are no known risks associated with taking the markers.

Do I have to have this examination?

Your doctor has requested this x-ray as it is considered the most effective way of helping with the diagnosis.

Weight Limit

There is a weight limit of 146kg (23 stone) for the equipment. Please ring for further advice if you think you may be too heavy.

Before:

Is there anything I should do?

- Take the enclosed capsules as directed on the instruction sheet.
- It is important that you do not take any laxatives from the time you take the first markers, until after your x-ray.
- You should eat and drink normally.
- If you are a female of childbearing age you will be asked to complete a pregnancy questionnaire on arrival.

During:

- When you attend for your appointment, you will have a plain x-ray of your abdomen.
- You will be asked to remove outer clothing and be given a gown to change into.



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After:

- There are no after effects from plain x-ray.
- The radiologist will examine your images and send a report to the doctor who requested them.
- You will receive a follow up clinic appointment to discuss the results.

From 1st January 2019 smoking will not be permitted on any NHS site in England. Smoking will not be permitted within any of our buildings or anywhere outside on our sites. Smoking facilities will not be provided. Please be considerate of others when vaping in hospital grounds.

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

Document Control

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