



## Barium Enema Test

### **Radiology Department**

St. James Mercy Hospital, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
411 Canisteo Street  
Hornell NY, 14843  
**607-324-8249**

To schedule an appointment: 607-324-8279

To fax to scheduling: 607-324-8221

### **What is Barium Enema test?**

The test is performed to examine the anatomy of your lower gastrointestinal tract.

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- You will be asked to do a bowel prep starting 24 hours before your exam. Your doctor will give you a prep solution and instructions to go with it. Please make sure that you follow these directions, as they are important to cleanse your bowel for the exam.
- Take your regular medications at your usual time.
- Please arrive 15 minutes before your appointment to complete the registration process.

### **Can I eat or drink before the test?**

You may not eat or drink for four (4) hours before your test.

### **What should I wear on the day of the test?**

You may wear anything you like, as you will be asked to change into a hospital gown for your exam.

### **What happens during the test?**

You will be asked to change into a hospital gown, and brought into the exam room and asked questions about your symptoms. You will then be asked to lie on a firm table, where we will take a picture of your bowels to make sure that they are clear (emptied) enough to do the exam. If the picture is clear then we will proceed with the exam.

You will be asked to lie on your left side and we will insert a tip into your rectum to introduce the Barium. The Radiologist will come into the room. We will start to introduce the Barium and take pictures. It may be uncomfortable at times, and you may be asked to roll on the table so that we can take different angles. Once the Radiologist is done taking the initial pictures the Technician will take additional images.

After all the pictures are done, we will assist you to the bathroom so that you can eliminate the Barium. You will then be asked to get back on the table for a couple more images. The test will then be completed.

### **How will I feel during the test?**

You may feel some fullness or cramping during your exam. This is normal.

### **How will I feel after the test?**

You may have some remaining gas after you test. You should increase your fluid and fiber intake for the next couple of days. Your bowel movements may be white in color, and if you do not had a bowel movement within 24 hours please contact your doctor.

### **How long does the test take?**

The test should take approximately one hour from start to finish.

### **How do I get my test results?**

The doctor who ordered the test will get the report in about 48 hours, and he or she will contact you with the results.