



Barium Enema



**Department
of
Diagnostic Radiology**

Barium Enema is the examination of the large bowel. Contrast is introduced through the anal route into the whole large bowel.

Ordinary x-ray can only demonstrate a rough outline of the large bowel. Barium enema is able to visualize mucosal details of different parts of bowels.

Indication

Barium enema is done for patients suspected of having large bowel problem. Patients might present with blood in stool, alteration in bowel habits or recurrent abdominal pain.

Patient Preparation

- Patient should follow the instructions for bowel preparation as good quality films largely depend on adequate bowel preparation.
- Patient should avoid eating high fiber diet 2 days before the examination (eg. vegetable, fruit or cereal).
- Patient should take the cleansing solution on the night before examination. He/she should be fasted afterward.

Procedure

During the examination, barium (an inert compounds) and air are introduced into the large bowel via a rectal catheter. A series of X-rays are then taken. Most patients do not feel any discomfort. Some patients may experience mild abdominal discomfort.

After Procedure

- Barium will be passed out through the GI tract. Your stool will be white in colour for a few days.
- The patient can resume normal diet increased water intake is recommended in order to prevent constipation.

Contraindication for barium enema

- Pregnant Patient
- Biopsy of large bowel within 7 days before examination.

Alternative to barium enema

- Colonoscopy
- Computed tomography (CT virtual Colonoscopy)