

UNITED HOSPITAL CENTER

PATIENT EDUCATION

ENTEROCLYSIS



Your physician has referred you to the Diagnostic Services Department at United Hospital Center for an Enteroclysis study. It is important for your stomach to be empty, so we ask that you do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before your exam.

For this exam you will be asked to wear a hospital gown. Upon entering the exam room, the technologist will ask you a few questions and then have you lay on the table so they can take an image of your abdomen.

The radiologist will then come into the room and pass a tube (small in diameter) from your nose or mouth to your stomach and into the first portion of your small bowel. A spray will be used to numb your throat. You then will have to lie down while a piece of x-ray equipment, called a fluoroscope, is moved over top of you so the radiologist can watch the tube as it moves along.

Once the tube is in place, several syringes of barium will be injected through the tube, followed by several syringes of methylcellulose. This is a substance that creates an “air contrast” affect in your small bowel to get better images.

The radiologist will start taking images as the barium and methylcellulose mixture passes through your small bowel. When the radiologist has taken as many images as he/she needs, they may ask the technologist to take some images. When the radiologist is satisfied that enough images have been taken to see the entire small bowel, the tube will be removed and you will be allowed to leave.

Your stool may look slightly white for a day or two. This is due to the barium. If you have difficulty getting your bowels to move, tell your nurse or doctor. A laxative may be prescribed.

LENGTH: Time can vary depending on how long it takes to get the tube to pass into the small bowel. An average time would be at least 1 hour.

If you are pregnant or think you might be, tell your doctor and the technologist **BEFORE** the exam.

DISCLAIMER: The content contained in this patient education is presented solely with the intent of providing public service information on health and health-related issues. This information is neither intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice. Always consult your physician or other qualified health provider prior to utilizing any of the information presented in this patient education. UHC makes no warranty, representation or guaranty as to the content, accuracy, timeliness or completeness of the information presented in this patient education or that the information may be relied upon for any reason.

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