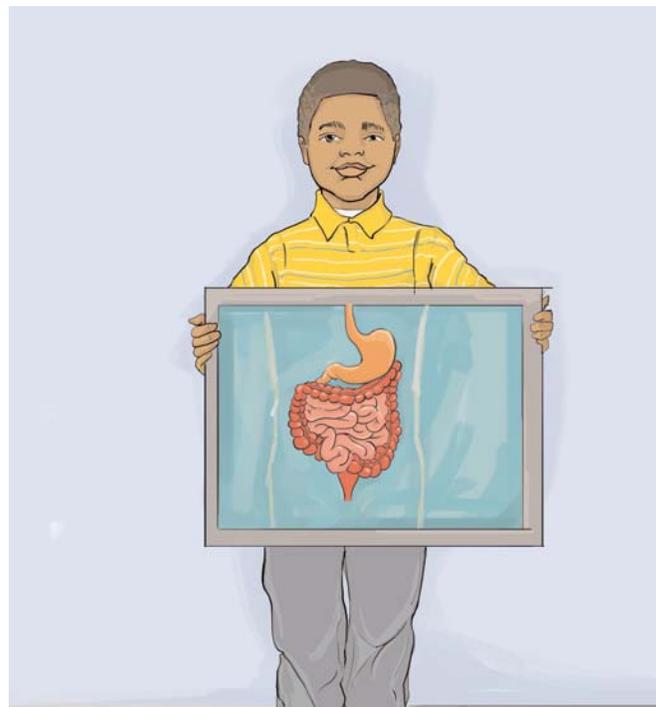


Upper GI Test

What is an upper gastrointestinal test (upper GI test)?

For this radiology test, your child will need to drink barium, which will coat the esophagus, stomach, and small intestine. Barium is a type of contrast medium that will illuminate the organs that the radiologist needs to see. This will allow the doctor to diagnose many different illnesses or issues that affect the esophagus, the first portion of small intestine, and/or the stomach. The test usually takes about 10 minutes from start to finish.



Why does my child need an upper GI?

Your child may need an upper GI test for one of many reasons. Some common reasons are:

- vomiting
- poor weight gain
- known reflux
- gastrointestinal bleeding
- abdominal pain

Prior to the test

Prior to the test your child will not be able to eat or drink. The length of time that he or she must go without food or drink depends on your child's age:

- Children aged 0 to 2 years may have nothing by mouth for FOUR hours before the test.
- Children aged 3 to 17 years may have nothing by mouth after midnight on the night before the scheduled test time.

After the test, your child will be able to eat and drink normally.

Day of the test

On the day of the test, you may meet with a child life specialist, who will talk with you and your child before the test and provide support during the test. You will also meet a radiology technologist and a radiologist.

Once you come into the room, you will be asked to wear a lead apron to protect you from radiation. Your child may also be asked to change into a hospital gown. This is done to ensure that nothing shows up on the X-ray and to protect the child's clothes from barium stains. If appropriate, your child will be asked to pick a flavor of barium, such as chocolate.

Your child will then be asked to lay on the table/bed, where a basic X-ray will be taken. Then the radiologist will come into the room to take the rest of the pictures as your child is drinking the barium. The radiologist may give your child instructions on drinking as well as on what position to lay in. Once the doctor gets all the necessary pictures, the test will be over.

Child Life Specialists are health professionals who help children and their families understand and cope with medical experiences. It is very important for both you and your child to be prepared for this test. Being prepared will help you talk to your child before the test and help you support him/her throughout the test. If you feel the need to speak with a Child Life Specialist before your child's scheduled test, call 216.445.2683.

This information is not intended to replace the medical advice of your health care provider. Please consult your health care provider for advice about a specific medical condition.



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Written as a collaboration between Child Life specialists and imaging professionals.
Produced by the Center for Consumer Health Information
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