

700 Children's Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43205-2696
nationwidechildrens.org

GASTROINTESTINAL TEST (UPPER GI SERIES)

An upper GI series is a test that is done to see how the stomach fills and empties into the small bowel (Picture 1, page 2). The test uses an X-ray machine to look for things that are not normal in the upper GI tract.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE TEST

Explain the test to your child in a way he or she can understand. The technologist or nurse will help you.

- If your child is older than one year of age, he should not eat or drink after 12:00 midnight before the morning of the test. If the test is scheduled for the afternoon, your child may eat breakfast only.
- A child younger than one year should not eat or drink for 4 hours before the test.
- If there is a special cup your toddler uses, please bring it with you.

HOW THE TEST IS DONE

If your child is over 6 months of age, he will be given a chocolate or strawberry flavored drink called barium (BEAR-ee-um). It will not be flavored if your child is younger than 6 months of age. Barium makes the stomach and intestines show up on the X-rays.

- An infant or small child will lie flat on the X-ray table. An older child may stand in front of the camera and must hold very still (Picture 2, page 2).
- While the pictures are being taken, your child will hear the camera click. The camera will not hurt your child.
- The radiologist (X-ray doctor) will examine your child's stomach and intestines by watching the TV monitor and seeing the way the barium fills the stomach and empties into the small bowel. The technologist then takes pictures on X-ray film.
- An upper GI series takes about 15 to 20 minutes. **If a small bowel follow-through test is also done, it will take 2 to 3 hours.** Pictures for the small bowel follow-through will be taken 30 to 45 minutes apart. Your child may play while waiting for X-rays to be taken.
- You may want to bring some toys or books to help entertain your child.

For Outpatient Use Only

Child's name _____

APPOINTMENT:

Date _____

Procedure time _____

Please come 15 minutes before the procedure time to register.

Bring your child to:

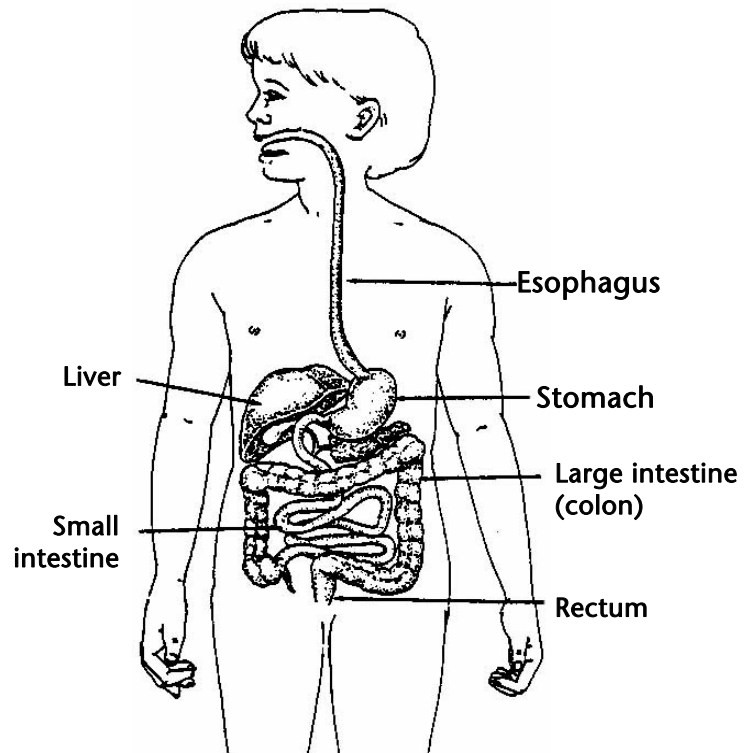
- The Radiology Department Registration Desk, first floor of the main building of Nationwide Children's Hospital. Telephone: (614) 722-2351, Option #2.
- Nationwide Children's Hospital Dublin Close-to-Home Center, Registration Desk, 5675 Venture Drive, Dublin, OH Telephone: (614) 760-1600
- Nationwide Children's Hospital Close-to-Home East Broad, Registration Desk, 6435 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43068 Telephone: (614) 866-7353

If you need to cancel your appointment or reschedule, call (614) 722-6200, Radiology option.

AFTER THE TEST

- After the X-rays are taken, your child may eat his usual foods.
- Your child's stools (bowel movements) will be white in color until the barium passes all the way through the bowels.
- The report of the test will be sent to your doctor. Call your doctor for the results of the test.

If you have any questions about your child's test, be sure to ask your doctor, nurse, or technologist, or call the location where the test was scheduled.



Picture 1 The gastrointestinal system inside the body.



Picture 2 Having an upper GI series.