


FLUOROSCOPY EDUCATION

Fluoroscopy is a kind of x-ray test that uses a non-stop x-ray beam to create a series of images that are projected onto a screen. When this type of x-ray is used with a contrast or dye, parts of the body or blood vessels will appear bright white on the screen. This makes it possible for the doctor to see your insides in motion. Still pictures are also made and stored in a computer as your permanent record.

These are a few of the common fluoroscopy exams and their purpose:

- Barium Enemas- look at the large intestine or colon.
- Upper GI Study- check the esophagus, stomach & small intestine.
- VCUG - exam of the bladder and lower urinary tract.



At UNM Hospitals, only trained, certified and licensed techs perform fluoroscopy tests. Students work with licensed technologists.

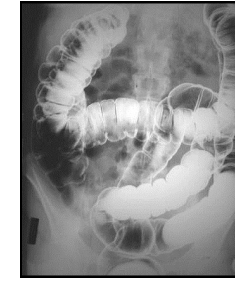
Image of the esophagus with contrast dye

GETTING READY FOR YOUR TEST

Many fluoroscopic exams require a preparation before the test. You will get a phone call about your exam prior to coming to the hospital. For some exams you cannot eat for 12 hours before your test. For other exams you might have to take medicine to help clean out your insides. Your tech may ask you about the results of your prep before your exam. You will be asked to change into a gown and to remove your jewelry, glasses or all other items from your body. Patients with **Diabetes** and patients with a **colostomy** may require different preparations before their fluoroscopic exam. Talk with your doctor about these different preps.

HOW IS THE TEST DONE?

The tech will take you to the room where your test will be done. You will be asked to lie on a special x-ray table. You will be given contrast dye either by IV, mouth or rectum depending on the type of test being done. You will be asked to move into many positions during your test by the technologist or doctor. The doctor is trained to perform and read your exam. It is important you follow all instructions given during your examination. Please let the tech know if you do not understand these instructions. By doing this, you are helping get the best pictures we can take. Fluoroscopy exams are different lengths of time. Some may be 30 minutes, others take a few hours. You may be asked to wait after your study to make sure it is good quality for the doctor.



**Air contrast
Barium Enema.**
This image displays a clear view of the large intestine, or colon.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MY EXAM IS DONE?

A radiologist, a doctor specifically trained to read radiology exams, will evaluate your fluoroscopy exam and send written results to your doctor. You will get your results from your doctor, not from the staff in Radiology.

X-RAYS AND PREGNANCY

For our female patients, if you are or might be pregnant, tell the tech before your exam. Some exams are not performed during pregnancy because the test can be harmful to the growing baby.