



➤ UPPER GI SERIES

What is an Upper GI Series?

The upper gastrointestinal (GI) series uses x-rays to diagnose problems in the esophagus, stomach, and duodenum (the first part of the small intestine). It may also be used to examine the small intestine entirely and is called a small bowel series. The upper GI series can show a blockage, abnormal growth, ulcer, or a problem with the way an organ is working.

What Preparation is Required for the Procedure?

Your stomach and small intestine must be empty for the procedure to be accurate. To prepare for the procedure you will have to stop eating or drinking overnight or for 8 hours prior to the procedure. Your physician may give you other special instructions or diet restrictions. Please follow your physician's instructions very carefully.

What Can I Expect During an Upper GI Series?

An Upper GI Series takes approximately 30 to 60 minutes to complete. X-rays of the small intestine may take as much as 90 minutes to complete although, on occasion, it may take a longer period of time. Though the procedure is long, it is not uncomfortable. During the procedure, you will drink barium, a thick, white, milkshake-like liquid. Barium coats the inside lining of the esophagus, stomach, and duodenum, and highlights them on x-rays. The physician can also see ulcers, scar tissue, abnormal growths, hernias, or areas where something is blocking the normal path of food through the digestive system. Using a machine called a fluoroscope, the doctor is also able to watch your digestive

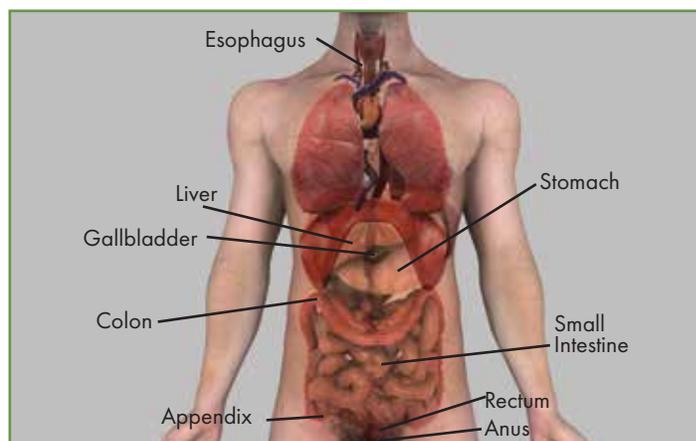
system work as the barium moves through it. This part of the procedure shows any problems in how the digestive system functions, for example, whether the muscles that control swallowing are working properly.

What Happens After an Upper GI Series?

After the procedure, the doctor will analyze the x-rays and determine the next steps for diagnosis or treatment of your condition. You should not experience any major side effects after an Upper GI Series and you will be able to safely return home and to work.

Complications from an Upper GI Series are very rare. The main side effect seen after an Upper GI Series is constipation and discoloration of your stool for a few days. If you experience any other side effects or issues, please contact your physician immediately.

Important Information: The information included on this sheet is intended only to provide general guidance and not as a definitive basis for diagnosis or treatment in any instance. It is extremely important that you consult a physician about your specific condition.



*Content derived from the National Digestive Disease Information Clearinghouse (NDDIC) & the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy.

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