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Diagnostic -

Barium Enema/Pediatric Prep & Barium Swallow

Definition: Barium is introduced into the colon to study the bowel. There is mild to moderate discomfort with this examination. The time necessary for the discomfort is only one to two minutes after which the patient is allowed to expel the barium. Also at times an air contrast barium enema will be scheduled. This consists of instilling air and barium and is done in a similar manner to the routine barium enema.

*NOTE: This routine prep will not be used if a barium enema is ordered after 1800 (6:00pm) for the next day. Refer to instructions following this procedure.

Essential Steps

Key Points

Instruct Patient.

Define test.

Order barium enema test diet in the computer the day prior to the x-ray procedure starting with breakfast 0800, lunch 1200, supper 1700.

Barium enema test diet is a clear liquid diet.

The diet may be started at anytime, but the sooner the better.

Encourage the patient to drink clear liquids frequently; at least 6 glasses during the afternoon and evening hours. Every one-two hours.

The importance of hydration cannot be over stressed.

Acceptable liquids are: water, tea, coffee, broth, bouillon, grape juice, apple juice, cranberry juice, Gatorade.

DO NOT give milk, cream, or carbonated beverage.

Give Magnesium Citrate solution, 10 ounces at 1500.

1500 is the preferable time but may give until 1800

*DO NOT give after 1800

Give X-Prep liquid, 2 ½ ounces at 2200.	Taste and acceptance is improved if refrigerated.
Give nothing by mouth after 2400 (No food or fluids until test is completed).	
Administer a Fleet ready-to-use Bisacodyl Enema at 0600. (This is 10mg in 37cc., obtained from Pharmacy.	This is NOT Fleet Enema This should be administered at least one hour prior to examination & retained for 15 minutes. Give no later than 0700. Shake well prior to use.
Send patient to x-ray with the chart.	If not called by 1100, check with x-ray department. Be sure patient is wearing a patient gown and no undergarments.
When patient returns from X-ray, request breakfast by 0930, next meal served will be lunch. Diabetic patients on special diets will be fed at anytime.	Feed if not otherwise contraindicated. If patient returns to unit after 0930, give juice and coffee from unit kitchen.
Give one modane tablet at 2200, one time only	Check with physician for further orders if patient has chronic constipation or is elderly, etc.
Encourage the patient to drink fluids following the examination.	This helps in eliminating the barium in the bowel.

Routine Prep for Enema When Ordered

After 6:00 p.m. (1800)
(Note time on request)

Essential Steps

No food after 1800.

Key Points

At least four glasses (8oz.each)

Offer fluids every one-two hours.

May give water, tea, coffee, broth, bouillon, grape juice, cranberry juice, Gatorade; DO NOT give milk, cream, or carbonated beverages.

The importance of hydration cannot be overstressed.

Give two fluid ounces of castor oil at 1800.

Although 1800 is the preferred time, the castor oil may be given up to 2200 (10:00 pm)

Give nothing by mouth after midnight (no foods or fluid)

Administer a Fleet Ready-To-Use Bisacodyl Enema at 0600. (This is 10mg in 37cc., obtained from Pharmacy).

This is not Fleet Enema.

Give no later than 0700.

Shake well prior to use.

Should be administered at least one hour prior to examination and retained for 15 minutes.

Pediatric Age Group (up to 17 years of age):

Under 6 months Enema only

6 months to 3 years ½ oz Castor Oil (1 Tbs.)

3 years to 8 years 1 oz. Castor Oil (2 Tbs.)

8 years and over 2 oz. Castor Oil (5 Tbs.)

Give the castor oil between 1900 and 2000. For ages 8 to 17, order a clear liquid diet the evening before the test.

Last Updated: December 06, 2005 Elesheba Shye-Parker 516-8094