

Contrast examination of a child's abdomen

The instructions apply to contrast examinations of the oesophagus, stomach and small intestine. The procedure examines the functioning of these organs. In the procedure, the child drinks a contrast agent, and its course through the oesophagus, stomach and small intestine is monitored, by taking images with an X-ray machine.

An examination of the oesophagus and stomach takes about 30 minutes. Please set aside about 2 hours for the procedure. A child who needs an emergency X-ray might be need to be seen before your child.

An examination of the small intestine requires more time, about 3-6 hours depending on how the contrast agent progresses through the intestines. In this case, the examination begins by following the progress of the contrast agent from the oesophagus to the beginning of the small intestine. After this, individual X-rays are taken of the abdominal area at intervals every 30-60 minutes.

Preparing for the procedure

Children under 1 year of age

- Three hours before the procedure, the child may not eat or drink anything. The child should be hungry when the procedure begins.

Children older than 1 year of age

- Please do not allow your child to eat or drink for four hours before the procedure. Carbonated drinks and chewing gum are prohibited on the day of the procedure before the examination.

During the procedure

During the procedure, the child lies on the imaging table. The child is given a contrast agent to drink, from a mug, straw, a baby cup with lid or baby bottle. To make this easier you can bring your child's own cup or baby bottle. In some situations, contrast agent can be given through a nasogastric tube. With the help of X-rays, the progress of the contrast agent in the oesophagus, stomach or small intestine is monitored.

What about after the procedure?

The child can eat and drink normally.

You will receive the test results from the referring doctor. If you don't know how, please ask the referring outpatients department or the referring unit to help you to get the results.

Other things to consider

Please take the child's Kela card or other ID with you. In addition, you can bring the child's favourite toy to the procedure. It is good to have 1-2 adults involved in the procedure. A person who is pregnant or suspected of being pregnant may not participate in the imaging session.

There is no separate fee for the procedure. You must not come to the procedure with the flu or acute illness. Please cancel the appointment if you can't make it.

More information

If you have any questions about the procedure, the contact information is in the arrival instructions or appointment letter.