

Patient Information

Enterography

What is an Enterography?

CT Enterography is a non-invasive examination of the small bowel using CT. The procedure will involve a series of drinks (Metamucil or Lactulose) to help visualise the small bowel more clearly. This is followed by hi-resolution multislice helical CT of the entire abdomen.

Metoclopramide (Maxolon) can sometimes be given with the oral contrast to promote gastric emptying/small bowel peristalsis and IV Buscopan is given immediately prior to scanning to slow the small bowel smooth muscle in order to minimise the incidence of non-distended loops.

Please note that an injection of CT contrast (Iodinated contrast) will also be administered to show the small bowel more clearly.

Preparation

You will need to fast for 6 hours prior to your scan. You will be asked to present to the department 2 hours prior to your appointment time to commence your oral contrast. Small sips of water to assist with taking regular medication is permitted. Please let the staff know if you have any allergies to iodine or any other medications. If you have a colostomy/stoma bag, you may wish to bring a replacement bag with you to your appointment.

How long will it take?

You will be asked to arrive 2 hours before your CT scan. This allows time for a series of drinks to be administered to maximise the visualisation of the small bowel. The CT scan itself will take approximately 10-15 minutes.

What to expect

You will be collected from reception by one of our nurses after you have registered with the front desk. You will be given oral contrast, Duphalac (Lactulose), to drink at timed intervals prior to the scan. This will take approximately ninety (90) minutes. **The fluid taken orally is critical to our radiologist's ability to assess your small bowel which is the object of the study. Please drink ALL the fluid given. If you are feeling nauseated, reduce the speed of intake.** A cannula will be placed in your arm so Buscopan and CT contrast can be administered immediately prior to your scan.

After Your Examination

You will be monitored briefly after the scan and your cannula will be removed. You may experience nausea and diarrhoea from the oral intake.

Possible Side-Effects and Complications

In general, this is a very safe examination. There are some complications that may occur in relation to the CT contrast injection. Occasionally (one chance per 1000 injection) mild allergic reactions such as rash, hives or sneezing can occur. These will usually develop at the time of the procedure. Sometimes these symptoms may occur as a delayed reaction, most often within 20 minutes. Usually these do not require treatment and settle rapidly. You may also experience blurred vision and a dry mouth from the Buscopan injection.

Questions?

You will be given the opportunity to ask any questions of the technicians or radiologist at the time of your procedure, however if you have any queries prior to the appointment, please feel free to contact us by phone or email – 02 9170 4500 or contact@nsrnm.com.au

If you have any questions regarding **why** you have been referred for an enterography, these should be directed to your specialist or the doctor looking after you. We are happy to re-schedule your booking so you can discuss it with your doctor.