



Upper GI Series Fact Sheet

Upper GI Series

What is an Upper GI Series?

An **Upper GI series** with small bowel follow-through are x rays that give your child's doctor information about your child's

- esophagus
- stomach
- small intestine

For this test, your child will drink barium, a thick chalky liquid used to coat the lining of the small intestine, before the x rays are taken. The barium shows up white on x ray film, helping to show areas of inflammation in your child's digestive tract.

If these x rays show Crohn's disease, more x rays of your child's upper and lower digestive tract can be needed to see how much of the digestive tract is affected by the disease.

The procedure is not uncomfortable and takes about 1 to 2 hours. Your child may be slightly constipated or have gray/white stools for a few days after the procedure.

Preparation for the test:

Your child's stomach and small intestine must be empty for the x rays to be clear, so the night before the test, he or she will not be able to eat or drink anything after midnight.

Your doctor may give you other specific instructions.