

Your Child's Care

The Le Bonheur radiology staff wants to care for your child's physical and emotional needs. The information in this brochure will answer questions you or your child may have about the scheduled upper gastrointestinal series (UGI), and help prepare your child for the test.

Your child's doctor can also answer any questions you may have, or you can call the Le Bonheur radiology department where your child will have the test to get more information.

What is an upper gastrointestinal series?

An upper gastrointestinal series (UGI) helps the doctor find out how the upper digestive system is working. This includes the esophagus (The tube from the mouth to the stomach), the stomach, and the small intestine (where food is digested and absorbed).

How is an upper gastrointestinal series done?

1. We will take you and your child to an exam room. Your child will put on the hospital gown.
2. Your child will lie on a table. There will also be a large X-ray camera.
3. An X-ray will be taken of your child's stomach area.
4. We will give your child barium (liquid that makes it possible to see the esophagus, stomach and small intestine with the X-ray) to drink from a bottle, cup, or a feeding tube.
5. As the barium passes from the mouth into the stomach and small intestines, the radiologist will watch a television screen to see how the esophagus, stomach and small intestines are working.
6. We may push on your child's abdomen to get a better view, ask your child to change positions, or ask him/her to think of a favorite food. This test takes 45-60 minutes, unless delayed films are needed. If delayed films are done, it may take up to 8 hours.

For adolescents, privacy may be their biggest concern. Explain the test to your teen, and encourage him/her to ask us questions.

Does my child have to do anything different before the test?

Your child may not be able to drink anything, including water, for 4 hours before the test to make sure the stomach is empty.

Your child's doctor will tell you if there are special things to do before your child has the test. Please call Radiology at 901-287-7041 if you need further instructions.

After the test, encourage your child to drink plenty of fluids.

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