

## PREPARING FOR THE EXAM

Fluoroscopy is a study of moving body structures - similar to an x-ray "movie." A continuous x-ray beam is passed through the body part being examined, and is transmitted to a TV-like monitor so that the body part and its motion can be seen in detail.

Fluoroscopy, as an imaging tool, enables physicians to look at many body systems, including the skeletal, digestive, urinary, respiratory, and reproductive systems. A mobile fluoroscopy C-Arm also may be used in the operating room so that doctors may monitor patients more closely as they perform certain surgical procedures.

If a preparation kit is indicated, please pick up your kit 2 days prior to exam at Humboldt General Hospital's Radiology Department. You must begin your prep 24 hours in advance. There is no additional charge.

### ■ Upper GI:

Nothing by mouth for 8 hours prior to exam.

### ■ Barium Enema:

Clear liquid diet for 24 hours prior to exam. A bowel prep kit is necessary.

### ■ Arthrograms:

Nothing by mouth for 4 hours prior to exam.

### ■ Myelograms:

Must be left off anti-depressants for 48 hours prior and 24 hours after exam.

Time required for each exam varies by procedure. Usually, a fluoroscopy study will take from 20 minutes to one hour.

**48**  
**HR** We will have your results back to your doctor within 48 hours.

Humboldt General Hospital provides state-of-the-art radiology services to men, women and children of all ages. Ensuring the most accurate diagnostic results is our goal. Services are performed in a timely and compassionate manner; meeting our patients' needs is our top priority.

Every member of Humboldt General Hospital's radiology team has achieved his or her registry through the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). Registration is the one-time process of initially recognizing individuals who have satisfied certain standards within a profession. A person is certified by the ARRT after meeting educational preparation standards, complying with ethics standards, and passing a comprehensive exam.

Clinical excellence is just one part of the department's three-pronged "Promise to the Community." Humboldt General Hospital's Radiology Department also is committed to premium customer service, offering extended evening and weekend hours, as well as the most advanced technology possible for its nine modalities: MRI, CT Scan, X-Ray, Fluoroscopy, Vascular Ultrasound, Obstetrical Ultrasound, Cardiac Ultrasound, Mammography and Bone Densitometry.

We look forward to serving you. Please call Humboldt General Hospital's Radiology Department at (775) 623-5222, ext. 133, with any questions or concerns you may have, or to schedule an appointment.

## "OUR PROMISE TO YOU"

- ✓ CLINICAL EXCELLENCE
- ✓ PREMIUM CUSTOMER SERVICE
- ✓ ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

**HGH**  
Radiology

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RD/09.07

## FLUOROSCOPY



**HGH**  
Radiology

# FLUOROSCOPY

at Humboldt General Hospital



## UPPER GI STUDY

Upper gastrointestinal tract radiography, also called an upper GI, is an outpatient examination of the pharynx, esophagus, stomach and first part of the small intestine using an orally ingested contrast material called barium.

As the patient drinks the liquid barium, the radiologist will watch the barium pass through the patient's digestive tract on a fluoroscope.

The patient must hold very still and may be asked to keep from breathing for a few seconds while the x-ray picture is taken to reduce the possibility of a blurred image.

For a double-contrast upper GI series, the patient will swallow baking-soda crystals that create gas in the stomach while additional x-rays are taken. This exam is usually completed within 20 minutes.

## BARIUM ENEMA

Lower gastrointestinal (GI) tract radiography, also called a lower GI or barium enema, is an outpatient x-ray examination of the large intestine, also known as the colon.

The patient is positioned on the examination table and an x-ray film is taken to ensure the bowel is clean. The radiologist or technologist will then insert a small tube into the rectum and begin to pump a

mixture of barium and water into the colon. Air may also be injected through the tube to help the barium thoroughly coat the lining of the colon.

Next, a series of x-ray images is taken. Patients must hold very still and may be asked to keep from breathing for a few seconds while the x-ray picture is taken to reduce the possibility of a blurred image.

Once the x-ray images are completed, most of the barium will be withdrawn through the tube. The patient will then expel the remaining barium and air in the restroom. A barium enema is usually completed within 30 to 60 minutes.

## ARTHROGRAM

An arthrogram is an outpatient x-ray examination of a joint using fluoroscopy and a contrast material containing iodine.

The patient is positioned on the examination table and x-rays are taken of the joint to be compared

later with the arthrograms. Next, a local anesthetic is injected into the area. A needle with an aspiration syringe is then inserted into the joint space. The radiologist will use the syringe to drain the joint fluid, which may be sent to a laboratory for analysis.

Next, the contrast material, and sometimes air, is injected into the joint space and the needle is removed to prevent the contrast material and/or air from escaping. Images are then obtained with the joint in various positions. The examination is usually completed within 30 minutes.

## MYELOGRAM

A myelogram is an imaging examination that shows the passage of contrast material in the space around the spinal cord (the subarachnoid space) and nerve roots using fluoroscopy.

As the patient lies face-down on the examination table, the radiologist will use the fluoroscope to visualize the spine and determine the best place to inject the contrast material. At the site of the injection, the skin is numbed with a local anesthetic. Depending on the location of the puncture, the patient will be positioned on his or her side, abdomen, or in a sitting position as the needle is inserted. If needed, a small amount of cerebrospinal fluid will be withdrawn for laboratory studies.

The contrast material is then injected and the x-ray table is slowly tilted so the contrast material will run up and down the spine and surround the nerve roots that are next to the spinal cord. The radiologist will monitor the flow of contrast, focusing on the area of the patient's symptoms.

At this point, additional x-ray images will be taken by the technologist. A myelography examination is usually completed within 30 to 60 minutes.

