



## **Examination Information for Barium Enema**

### **What is it?**

This examination is designed to check the lining of the colon. Many patients who have a strong family history of bowel cancer have a barium enema every 5 years or so.

### **What to expect?**

The enema is performed by placing a small tube in the rectum. The colon is partially filled with a white liquid called barium, then distended with gas. The barium shows up well on x-rays, and the fine coating of barium on the bowel lining will highlight any abnormalities.

X-Rays have to be taken from different angles to obtain a complete evaluation. The table has an x-ray TV camera, which is used to place the patient in the correct position, and then x-rays are taken with a still camera.

This examination can be somewhat uncomfortable but it should not be painful usually taking 30-40 minutes. You will be given dietary instructions for the following few days to ensure your system returns to normal quickly.

### **Your Results**

After the examination we recommend that you rest for a few hours as you may experience some remaining discomfort. If your problem is urgent, the radiologist will contact your doctor once the procedure is completed and has reviewed all the pictures and made his diagnosis.

If your problem is not urgent, your doctor will receive the pictures and the radiologists report usually by the following day.

### **Appointments**

To make an appointment for your x-ray examination, please phone us on 09 630 3324, fax 09 623 5859.

If you still have questions about your examination, ask your doctor or contact us direct. Our staff will be pleased to help you.