St. Luke's Imaging Services Patient/Family Information

Esophagram

What is an esophagram procedure?

An esophagram procedure is an exam of the esophagus. The exam is performed in fluoroscopy and will take approximately 15-30 minutes.

Special Note

- Before the exam, please tell your doctor if you are or think you may be pregnant or are nursing.
- Please bring your medication list with you to your exam.
- If you are normally on a special diet, like a diabetic, you should ask your doctor about planning your diet for this procedure.

Preparation

Following the exam preparation will enable your exam to be completed as scheduled. If the preparation is not followed, your exam will need to be rescheduled.

It is important that your stomach be empty in order to have a valid study. No food, fluids (any liquids including water) or medications should be taken after 10 p.m. the evening before the examination. Even a sip of water may cancel your exam. Also, do not chew gum or smoke after midnight. Doing either will affect the results of the exam. If you have questions concerning medications please contact your physician, but you may bring any morning medications with you to take after your exam.

Registration Instructions:

Please arrive 30 minutes prior to your appointment time and register at the West Entrance of St. Luke's Hospital. After registration is complete, the exam will be performed in the Imaging Services Department on the 2nd floor, just off of Elevator A.

What Happens During the Test?

Seeing the esophagus is done by drinking barium, a thick chalky liquid while x-ray images are taken. You may also swallow some "crystals" that will put gas or air in the esophagus and stomach.

Who interprets the results?

A radiologist, a physician who specializes in the interpretation of x-ray images, will review all the x-rays shortly after the exam is completed.   A written report will be sent to your doctor. Your doctor will discuss these results with you. Please allow your physician the time needed to review these results.