



**QUAKERBRIDGE**  
RADIOLOGY

**Location:** The Imaging Center  
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# Esophagram

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## What is an Esophagram?

An Esophagram is a series of X-rays of the esophagus. The X-ray pictures are taken after the patient drinks a solution that coats and outlines the walls of the esophagus. This is also called a barium swallow. This test may be used to determine the cause of painful swallowing, difficulty with swallowing, abdominal pain, bloodstained vomit, or unexplained weight loss.

## Preparing for an Esophagram

1. Do not eat or drink after midnight the night before your exam.
2. If you are on medication, continue as directed by your doctor.
3. Inform the scheduler if there is a chance you may be pregnant.
4. Please remember to bring:
  - Your prescription
  - Your insurance card
  - Your referral (if needed)

## What to Expect During the Exam

1. To begin the exam, you will be given one or two cups of water with effervescent crystals. Drinking this will produce gas that expands your stomach to allow for better imaging.
2. You will then be given a cup of barium – a thick, white drink that will coat the organ walls and fill the stomach. The technologist will instruct you when and how much you should drink.
3. The technologist will take several X-rays at different times and in different positions to view the barium as it travels down your esophagus.
4. The procedure takes around 30 minutes to complete.

## What to Expect After the Exam

When you leave after your exam you will probably feel rather full. This is normal, and to be expected as you just drank several cups of a thick liquid about the consistency of a milkshake. You will be instructed by the technologist before leaving to make sure you drink plenty of water and other fluids. This will help the barium pass through you fairly quickly and easily. Your stool for the rest of the day and possibly the next day will be a white to grayish white color as a result of all the barium you drank. Do not worry, it will pass and your stools will return to their normal color and consistency in a day or two.

## About your Results

Within 48 hours, a report will be sent to the ordering physician, as well as any other physician you may have requested. If you need to pick up your results, you may do so from our medical records departments or by email at [medicalrecords@qbradiology.com](mailto:medicalrecords@qbradiology.com).

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any further questions.