Barium Swallow

What is a Barium Swallow?
A Barium Swallow is an x-ray test that gives your doctor information about your esophagus (the tube that connects your throat to your stomach). During the test, you drink a milk shake-like liquid called Barium. This helps the doctor see a clearer picture on the x-rays.

Why is it done?

DOCTORS USE THIS TEST TO FIND:
- Cancer
- Tumors
- Esophageal varices (enlarged veins)
- Muscle disorders
- Hiatal Hernia
- Achalasia (food does not pass from the esophagus to the stomach)
- Gastro Esophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)
- Ulcers
- Strictures (narrowed areas)

How is it done?
- You will be given a cup of Barium to drink during the test.
- A variety of pictures will be taken in different positions (lying and standing).
- This is done in front of x-ray equipment called a fluoroscope.
- While you are drinking barium the doctor will be taking images, and watching the barium flow through your esophagus and into your stomach.

How do I prepare for the test?
- The night before your test: **Do not** eat, drink or take any medicines after midnight.

Do I have special instructions after the test?
- You can resume your normal diet after the test.
- For 2 days after your test, drink plenty of fluids. This will flush out any remaining barium.

How long will it take to get my results?
- Your results will be available to your doctor the day of your test.

If you have any questions, please call (314) 454-8902.