



Defaecography

Information for patients



What is a defaecography test?



This test is used to investigate any problems you may have when trying to open your bowels.

Barium paste (which shows up on X-ray) is inserted into your rectum via a finger-sized examining scope until you have the urge to empty your bowels. You will then sit on a specially designed toilet in front of an X-ray machine and given instructions to open your bowels to pass the barium out of your back passage. We will strive to give you as much privacy as possible during the test.

Are there any risks associated with your test?

There are no serious frequently occurring risks associated with your test, however the test does involve a low dose of radiation, so we have to be very careful about X-rays during pregnancy. For this reason, we will check the pregnancy status of any woman of child-bearing age and if there is any chance of pregnancy we will not undertake the test.

What preparation is required for your test?

-  You may eat and drink as normal and continue with any normal medication.
-  You do not need any special preparation for your test.

Key



Do



Do not




Additional info

What happens during my test?

- 1 Your test will be conducted by your physiologist in a private room with a chaperone present. They will explain your test to you and ask questions about your symptoms.
- 2 You will then be asked to get changed into a gown and lie on the couch ready for your test.
- 3 Your physiologist will insert barium paste (which shows up on X-ray) into your rectum using a finger-sized examining scope until you have the urge to open your bowels. We will then ask you to sit on a specially designed toilet in front of an X-ray screen. You will then be asked to open your bowels to pass the barium out of your back passage.

You will be given privacy while you are doing this behind a screen in a darkened room.

 **Your test will take about 15 minutes.**

How will I get my results?

Your results will be sent by secure email to both you and your referring consultant/doctor.

We aim to send out all patient results within five working days of completion of your test.



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