

ESOPHAGRAM

PREPARATION

Nothing to eat or drink after midnight (this is waived in emergency situations).

PROCEDURE

The patient drinks barium and gas pills (similar to Alka-Seltzer or Eno) to demonstrate swallowing, obstruction (blockage), reflux (causes heartburn) and other conditions. Barium is a white chalky-tasting thick liquid which shows up on x-rays.

Time to complete: 30 minutes