



# Fluoroscopy

Your child's doctor has ordered a fluoroscopy exam at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. A fluoroscopy exam uses X-rays to create moving pictures of the inside of the body. It helps doctors see how an organ or body system functions.

## PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR A FLUOROSCOPY EXAM

There are several different types of fluoroscopy exams. For some fluoroscopy exams, there are specific instructions for what to do before the exam. Visit [www.choa.org/fluoroscopy](http://www.choa.org/fluoroscopy) for details about each type of exam and the instructions that need to be followed.

Follow these instructions for your child's safety. If you do not follow the instructions, we will have to reschedule the appointment. Call the Radiology Department where your child's appointment is scheduled if you have questions.

- Children's at Egleston: 404-785-6555
- Children's at Scottish Rite: 404-785-2055
- Children's Healthcare at Webb Bridge: 404-785-SCAN (7226)

## WHAT TO BRING TO YOUR CHILD'S APPOINTMENT

- A parent or legal guardian for consent
- A list of your child's medicines
- Information about your child's illness or injury
- Connecting tube for G-tube
- Colostomy bag supplies

## WHAT TO EXPECT DURING YOUR CHILD'S VISIT

### Before the fluoroscopy exam

- The pediatric radiologist, technologist or nurse will bring you and your child into the exam area.
- The technologist will explain the exam to you and your child.
- Your child will be asked to change into a gown.
- Sometimes the exam uses a special liquid dye, called contrast. Contrast is given based on the type of exam your child is having and the body part being studied. Contrast can be swallowed or given by an enema, intravenous (I.V.) line or catheter.

- Both parents can stay with him during the exam. Brothers and sisters cannot be in the exam room.

### During the fluoroscopy exam

- The radiologist will move the fluoroscopy machine around to follow the contrast material wherever it goes.
- Your child may be asked to move around in different positions so that we can take pictures of different areas.
- The radiologist will view the images on a special TV.
- A fluoroscopy exam can take 30 minutes to 60 minutes to complete.

### After the fluoroscopy exam

- The nurse or technologist will give you any special instructions and tell you when your child can leave. You may be given a CD with your child's pictures on it to take to your child's doctor.
- If contrast was given, it will leave your child's body through his urine within 24 to 48 hours after the scan. The color of your child's urine should stay normal.
- If barium was used for your child's exam, your child may have some white material in his stool for two or three days. Barium may cause constipation (no stools or hard stools). Contact your child's doctor if your child has not had a bowel movement after three days.
- After the exam, your child may eat or drink as usual, unless your child's doctor tells you not to feed him.
- The radiologist will look at the pictures and send a report to your child's doctor.
- Your child's results will be sent to his doctor within 72 hours of his test. If you have any questions about the results, call your child's doctor.

## COMMON FLUOROSCOPY EXAMS

- **Barium enema**—checks your child’s colon (also known as the large bowel or intestine). Contrast is given through the rectum for this exam.
- **Barium swallow or upper gastrointestinal (GI) series**—checks your child’s esophagus, stomach and a portion of the small intestine. It checks the size and shape of the organs in the GI tract or helps diagnose digestive disorders. Contrast is taken by mouth for this exam.
- **Esophagram**—checks the tube that connects the mouth to the stomach (esophagus). Contrast is taken by mouth for this exam.
- **Oral-pharyngeal Motility Study (OPMS)**—is a feeding and swallowing study that looks at how liquids and foods are controlled in the mouth and moved through the mouth and throat during swallowing.
- **Voiding Cystourethrogram (VCUG)**—checks your child’s bladder size, shape and capacity, as well as the small tube that connects the bladder with the outside of the body (urethra). This study also can tell if your child’s urine goes back into his kidneys (called reflux). Contrast is given through a catheter in the bladder for this exam.