



Lower GI Series Fact Sheet

Lower GI Series

What is an Lower GI Series?

A **Lower GI series** give doctors information about your child's

- large intestine
 - colon
 - rectum.

For this test, your child will have a barium enema where barium, a thick chalky liquid used to coat the lining of the large intestine which the pediatric radiologist will put into your child's rectum.

Your child may be asked to change position while the x rays are being taken so that the radiologist can get different views of the colon.

Your child may be uncomfortable during the lower GI series because the barium can cause a feeling of fullness or the urge to go the bathroom. Once the procedure is finished, your child will be able to go the bathroom and the discomfort will be over.

A Lower GI Series takes about 1-2 hours and may cause your child to be slightly constipated or have gray/white stools for a few days after the procedure.

Preparation for this test:

Your child's colon must be empty for the xrays to be clear.

To prepare for the procedure you may have to restrict your child's diet for a few days before the test and

- allow them to only drink liquids and eat non dairy foods for two days before
- allow only clear liquids the day before
- nothing after midnight the night before

A liquid diet means fat-free bouillon or broth, gelatin, strained fruit juice, water, plain coffee, plain tea, or diet soda. To make sure your child's colon is empty, you may have to give your child a laxative or an enema before the procedure.

Your doctor may give you other specific instructions.