

ESOPHAGRAM

An esophagram is a fluoroscopy exam that is frequently used to assess the position of the Lap-Band and flow of contrast through the band. It also can help visualize potential complications like a dilation or band slip.

A radiologic technologist will guide you through the esophagram along with a radiologist (a physician trained in performing and interpreting x-rays). It is requested **NOT to eat or drink for six hours before the exam** as food or liquids can interfere with the interpretation of the x-ray images.

- You will be positioned behind x-ray equipment called a fluoroscope for the x-ray exam
- You will then be asked to swallow a liquid that contains barium. The barium fills and coats the lining of the intestinal tract making the esophagus, stomach and duodenum visible
- Images are obtained at different angles by the fluoroscope for physician interpretation
- The radiologist examines the x-rays to identify normal and abnormal structures of the gastrointestinal system
- If needed, further enhancement of the different structures can be obtained by having air as well as barium in the stomach. This is accomplished by swallowing baking soda crystals

As barium passes through the digestive system, **constipation** can result. Therefore, it is advisable for patients to drink extra fluids (water) after the exam and to consider a laxative to relieve the bowels of the barium if the barium is not eliminated completely within the next day or two. As it is passing in the stool, barium has a whitish appearance that may be apparent for several days after the exam.

When will I be contacted to schedule the exam?

A SimonMed imaging representative will contact you via phone within 48-72 hours to schedule the exam. (If the exam is ordered on a Thursday or Friday, plan to hear from a representative on Monday or Tuesday of the following week. If you do not hear from a representative within that time frame, please call **(480)-306-6940** to schedule the imaging exam.

When will I receive the results of my esophagram?

A nurse practitioner will contact you by phone with the results of your UGI exam (typically within 72 hours).

Where will I go for the esophagram?

SimonMed Imaging Locations:

- Arrowhead: 6320 W. Union Hills Dr., Bldg. A, Suite 120, Glendale, AZ 85308
- Avondale: 10815 W. McDowell Rd., #102, Avondale, AZ 85392
- Surprise Stadium Village: 14823 W. Bell Rd., 110 (85374)
- Thunderbird: 5410 W. Thunderbird Rd., #100, Glendale, AZ 85306
- Gilbert Spectrum: 2680 S. Val Vista Dr., Bldg. 7, Suite 135, Gilbert, AZ 85295
- Chandler (Dobson 1): 235 S. Dobson Rd., Unit 1, Chandler, AZ 85224
- Mesa Desert/Tempe: 1111 S. Dobson Rd., Suite 105, Mesa, AZ 85202
- Scottsdale/Mountainview: 9201 E. Mountain View Rd., Suite 137, Scottsdale, AZ 85258
- Phoenix: 2620 N. 3rd St., #102, Phoenix, AZ 85004

Arizona Diagnostic Radiology Group Location:

- Gilbert (Gateway Medical Professional Village): 4915 E. Baseline Rd., Suite 116, Gilbert, AZ. 85234

Both SimonMed Imaging and Southwest Diagnostic Imaging follow a **very specific fluoroscopy protocol for our banded patients as well as electronically delivered physician interpretation of the results and access to radiological images for the nurse practitioners to review**