DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY

SMALL BOWEL ENTEROCLYSIS

OVERVIEW: In radiology, ionizing radiation is used to produce a radiographic image. Before the examination, a radiographer will explain the procedure to you and answer any questions you might have. A radiographer, also known as a radiologic technologist, is a skilled medical professional who has received specialized education in the areas of radiation protection, patient care, radiation exposure, radiographic positioning and radiographic procedures.

If you are a woman of childbearing age, the radiographer will ask if there is any possibility you are pregnant. It is important that you tell the radiographer the date of your last menstrual period and whether there is a chance that you may be pregnant.

SMALL BOWEL ENTEROCLYSIS: This test is performed to examine the small bowel and may identify lesions that had been seen on a prior Upper GI x-ray series. It is the most complete means of demonstrating that the small intestine is normal, if an abnormality is suspected. This examination is performed to look for tumors, malabsorption syndrome (inadequate absorption of nutrients in the intestinal tract), inflammation of the small intestines (i.e. Crohn’s disease) or possible obstruction.

PREP: One bottle of magnesium citrate to be taken the evening before the exam. Nothing to eat or drink after midnight.

PROCEDURE: Prior to your examination, you will be given a hospital gown to wear. A special tube is inserted through the nose and is passed down through the esophagus and stomach, until the tip reaches the small intestine. A barium mixture is infused through the tube and various x-rays are taken as the liquid moves through bowel structures. The examination will take approximately 1½ hours.

RESULTS: After your radiographs have been reviewed by a radiologist, your ordering physician will contact you with the results in approximately 3 days. Your physician then will advise you of the results and discuss what further procedures, if any, are needed.