

Small Bowel Follow Through (SBFT)



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515-226-9810

What is a Small Bowel Follow Through?

A Small Bowel Follow Through (SBFT for short) is, as the name implies, an exam that follows barium (a thick, chalky fluid) or some other contrast media through the small intestines.

CPT Codes

74250 74245 (UGI with SB)

Indications

This exam is used to diagnose conditions of the small bowel including Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and bowel cancer.

Contraindications

known or suspected perforation of the GI tract, bowel obstruction, severe constipation, pregnancy

How Does Your Patient Prepare?

Fast for at least 8 hours. NPO including smoking or chewing gum after midnight.

What Happens During the Test?

The patient will be required to drink two types of barium. After drinking the barium, x-ray pictures will be taken of the abdomen at timed intervals. The length of time it takes to complete the exam depends on the time it takes for the barium to pass through the small intestine. This varies among people. Once the barium reaches the colon, the radiologist then takes live x-rays while pressing on the abdomen.

The procedure typically takes 2 hours, but may take up to 4 or 5 hours.

After the Test

Your patient may resume normal diet and activities following the exam. Barium may cause constipation or possible impaction after the procedure if it is not completely eliminated. Ensure your patient drinks plenty of fluids and eats foods high in fiber to excrete the barium from the body. Bowel movements may be white or chalky.

The Results

A radiologist will analyze the images and send a signed report to the referring physician within 1 business day.

(Information adapted from Wikipedia and Dr Paul Keller)

This manual is intended for use as merely a guideline for referring physicians and their staff only. It contains information pertaining to the most commonly ordered exams and indications. However, Iowa Radiology does not recommend any particular examination. Individual radiologist preference or patient circumstances may dictate ordering alternative studies. Although contrast codes are not needed to place an order, the following contrast codes may be used in placing orders: CT Contrast Q9967, MRI contrast A9577 and A9579.