What is an upper GI?

An upper gastrointestinal (UGI) procedure examines the upper gastrointestinal system and helps us understand:

- Esophagus problems
- Vomiting
- Reflux
- Stomach pain

### Upper gastrointestinal system

The upper gastrointestinal system includes:

- Mouth
- Esophagus
- Stomach

### How we do the upper GI

A technologist will meet with you. We will ask about your child’s history, tell you about the procedure, and answer your questions.

1. **Your child will:**
   - Put on a hospital gown.
   - Stand or lie on a firm bed in a dimly lit room.

2. **Drinking thick liquid**
   - This is called barium.
   - It is usually fruit flavored.

3. **Changing positions**
   - Sometimes we ask you to roll from side to side or from your back to your stomach. This helps us get the different pictures needed.

A Radiologist uses a special camera called a “fluoroscope” to take pictures.

### Please follow the eating and drinking preparation instructions below for UGI.

**Newborn infants to 6 months of age**

Do not eat or drink anything 4 hours before the exam time.

**Infants 6 months and older**

Do not eat or drink anything after midnight before the exam time.

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**Special instructions**

1. Please report to Patient Registration at your child’s scheduled **arrival** time.
2. The UGI exam takes 45 to 60 minutes.
3. Parents will complete a questionnaire about your child’s medicines and allergies.
4. If your daughter is 10 years or over, a pregnancy form must be filled out and possibly a pregnancy test.
5. Parents can stay in the room during the procedure.
6. Expectant mothers may not be in the exam room during the procedure.
7. Please do not bring other children. Your child needs all your attention during the visit.
8. If you are unable to keep your appointment, please call us as soon as possible.

**After the UGI**

**After the exam is over, your child:**

- May eat and drink as usual.
- May return to normal activities.
- It is important to drink lots of fluids such as water and juices.
- The first few bowel movements may have a white or grayish color.

A Radiologist will read the exam and send the results to your child’s doctor. You may contact your child’s doctor for the results.

These instructions are only general guidelines. Your doctor may give you special instructions. If you have questions or concerns, please call your doctor.