



## SAINT ANTHONY MEDICAL CENTER

## Diagnostic Radiology (X-Ray) Department

815-395-5433

**Test Name:**

Air Contrast Colon / Barium Enema with Air

Welcome to the OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center Diagnostic Radiology Department.

You have been scheduled to have an **Air Contrast Colon** exam. This is a diagnostic test using fluoroscopy (a form of x-ray).

This information will help you understand the test that has been scheduled.

Thank you for trusting OSF for your medical imaging needs.

### **When to come:**

Please arrive 15 minutes before your appointment time to check in.

### **What to Bring with You:**

You may have had x-rays done at a hospital other than OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center. Please bring copies of the pictures with you the day of the test. You may also request that the doctor's office send the pictures or results to OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center before your test.

### **Preparation:**

Your doctor has requested a test, which requires your large intestine (colon) be as empty as possible. Therefore, be sure to follow all instructions. If you did not receive instructions from your doctor's office please call 815-395-5433.

The contrast in this test is called barium. If you have any known allergies to barium, please contact your ordering doctor. You may need to take special medications before having this test.

### **Family:**

Family or friends are asked to stay in the waiting area during the test.

### **Jewelry:**

Please remove all jewelry from your neck, chest, and belly before your test.

### **Pregnancy Testing:**

Pregnancy testing will now be performed on females receiving diagnostics between the ages of 10 and 55 years old if you have not had your tubes tied or a hysterectomy. Home pregnancy tests are not acceptable. If you know that you are pregnant, please

notify your doctor.

### **Medications:**

You may take medications with 2 to 3 sips of water

### **Test Instructions:**

You will be asked to wear a hospital gown for the test. A registered x-ray technologist will help the radiologist (a doctor specializing in reading X-rays) with your test. The test will take about 60 minutes. You will lie on an x-ray table under an x-ray tower.

The technologist will insert an enema tip into your rectum.

Your large intestine will be filled with barium and air through the enema tip. Barium allows the internal portions of your large intestine (colon) to be seen on the x-ray.

The radiologist and x-ray technologist will take pictures during the test and the x-ray technologist will release the air from the balloon and remove the enema tip. More pictures may be taken after you use the restroom.

### **After Test Instructions:**

You should drink extra fluids for 1 to 2 days after a barium test. Your stools may be light in color and chalky. If your bowel movements are not normal within 24 hours, contact the ordering doctor for more instructions.

### **Test Results:**

Your test will be read by a radiologist who will complete a report that will be sent to your ordering doctor. You can make plans with your ordering doctor to receive your test results.