Having a Swallowing Test: Videofluoroscopy

A videofluoroscopy is a moving x-ray that gives information about:

- how you swallow
- ways to help you swallow better and more safely

This test is sometimes called a modified barium swallow (MBS).

You don't have to prepare for this test.

You sit in your usual eating position for the test. A recording is made while you eat and drink small amounts.

We mix barium, a chalky-tasting substance, into the food or liquid you're given. Barium is used because it can be seen on x-ray.



There may be a risk of food or liquid entering your airway, so we begin by giving small amounts. The test can be stopped at any time.

You'll be exposed to a small amount of radiation for the test. Please speak with your doctor if you have concerns.

You can also speak with the radiologist or the technologist on the day of the test.

This material is for information purposes only. It should not be used in place of medical advice, instruction and/or treatment. If you have questions, speak with your doctor or appropriate healthcare provider.

