

## What is a Defecography (Colon Enema)?

Defecography (Colon Enema) is a radiological test that allows the doctor to see what happens when you empty your rectum. This test may be awkward, but it provides valuable information that will help diagnose your problem.

## Who needs a Defecography?

Patients suffering from:

- Constipation
- Diarrhea
- Solitary Rectal Ulcer syndrome (SRU)
- Prolapses
- Rectoceles
- Cystoceles
- Enteroceles

## Why would a Defecography be performed?

A Defecography gives us important information on how your rectum empties and if there are any structural abnormalities. It can also tell us if you have:

- Intussusception (falling inside itself) of the rectum
- Rectal prolapse (bulging of the rectum)
- Rectocele (bulging in the rectum)
- Enterocoele (falling of the bowels during evacuation)
- Cystocele (bulging of the bladder)
- Vaginal prolapse (bulging of the vagina)

## How do I prepare for my test?

If you are a woman, you should arrive 1 hour before your test.

If you are a male, you can arrive at your scheduled test time.

## **What will happen during my test?**

1. We will have you change into a hospital gown
2. You will drink 2 cups of barium solution and 2 cups of water.
3. One hour after drinking the barium solution and water, the radiologist will fill the vagina (in women) and rectum with a barium paste.
4. You will sit in an upright position on a toilet.
5. We will ask you to rest, squeeze, and strain certain muscles and then push the barium paste out while x-rays are being taken.

## **Where do I go for the test?**

University of Michigan Hospital, GI/GU Radiology on the B-1 level.

## **How is the remaining barium removed from my body once the test is completed?**

If you suffer from incontinence, we will ask you to drink some extra fluids to remove the remaining barium. If you suffer from constipation, the radiology technician will guide you on how to clean the barium. The radiology technicians will offer you a sanitary pad to absorb any leaking barium from your rectum.

## **When will I get my Results?**

Your physician will most likely prefer to correlate these results with other diagnostic tests. A return visit at a future date may be scheduled to discuss your results.

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