



Radiology department

Information about your barium swallow examination

The purpose of a **barium swallow** is to examine the area from your mouth, down your throat and oesophagus (gullet) to your stomach. To see the stomach clearly, it is very important that it is empty. It is important to follow these instructions **carefully**. This leaflet explains what happens when you come for your barium swallow.

Before your barium swallow

- Do not eat or drink for the 2 hours before your appointment time. However you may take your medication as normal with a small amount of fluid.
- We will ask you to undress in a cubicle and give you a cotton gown to wear. (If you wish, you can bring your own dressing gown to wear over the cotton gown). You may leave your clothes in the cubicle. Take any valuables with you.
- You will be taken into the X-ray room and introduced to the radiographer who will be responsible for your examination. He/she will explain what will happen during the examination.
- A speech therapist and nurse may be present.

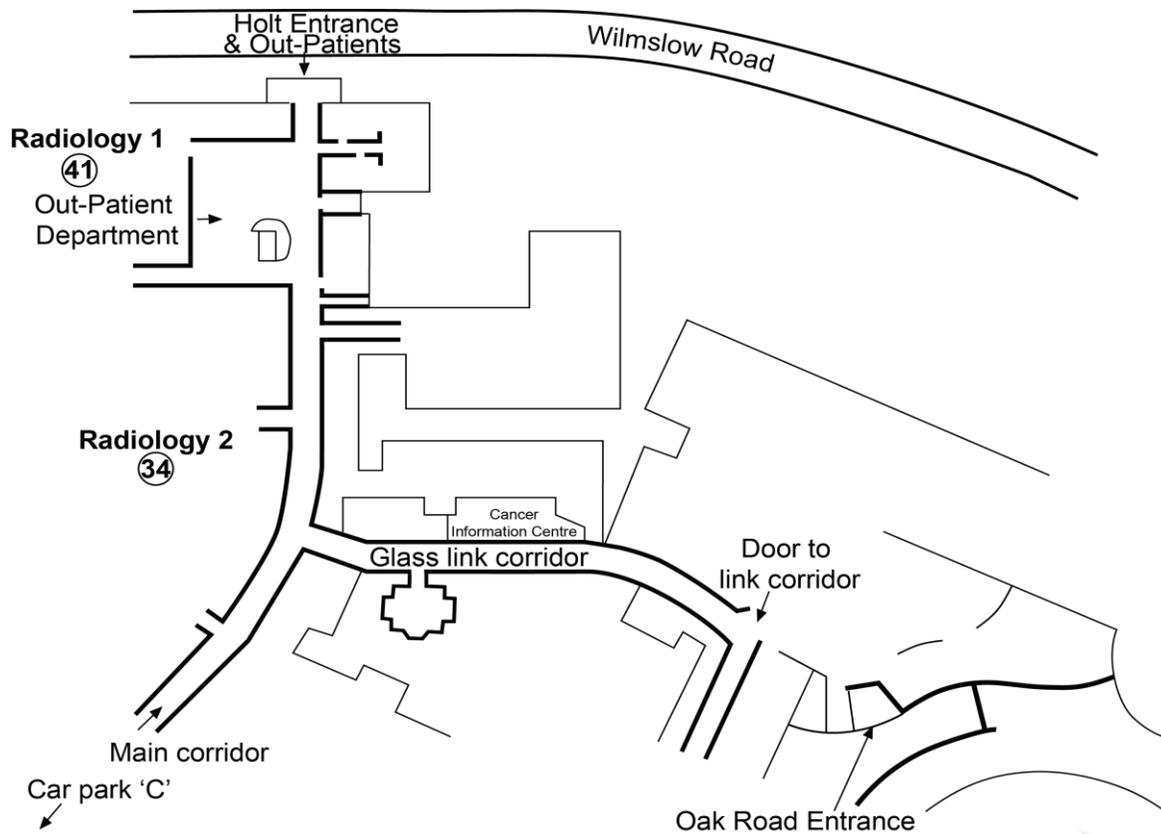
During your barium swallow

- We will ask you to stand or sit in front of the X-ray machine and give you a cup containing a small amount of fruit flavoured liquid. This is the barium. You may be given a small amount of food to swallow as well.
- The radiographer will tell you when to drink the barium and he or she will watch you on the TV screen.
- The radiographer will ask you to move and turn during the examination so that he/she can obtain clear images.
- A video recording of this may also be made if necessary.
- When the radiographer takes the X-ray images, he or she will give you clear instructions when to swallow.
- Some X-ray images will be taken when you are standing and some when you are lying down.
- The examination takes about 20 minutes.

After your barium swallow

- The X-ray images will be checked before you get dressed. So please be prepared to wait for a short time.
- The radiographer will tell you when you can get dressed and leave.
- You can now eat and drink normally. If you are a **diabetic** you can bring some food to eat immediately after the examination.
- To help get rid of the barium after the examination, drink plenty of fluids and, if necessary, take a laxative.
- The report of your examination will be sent to the doctor or consultant who referred you.

Please come to Radiology 2 (department 34) for this examination. The map below will show you where to find us.



If you have any problems or questions about this **appointment**, please phone the number below:

☎ 0161 446 3322

If you have any questions or you wish to discuss any **problems about your barium swallow**, please contact us on the above phone number before you attend.