



FL (UGI) Upper Gastrointestinal

To Schedule: (319) 861-7778

Questions about Procedure: (319) 398-6050

701 10th Street SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403-1292
319 398-6011

What is an UGI series?

A UGI (upper gastrointestinal) series refers to an x-ray of the upper digestive tract. This includes the esophagus and stomach and may include the small bowel, if requested by your physician. In order to visualize the upper digestive track, you will be asked to swallow gas-producing granules. You will also be asked to drink some barium, and the radiologist or Radiologist PA will take images as the barium moves through your system. The esophagus or stomach procedures usually take about 15 minutes. If a small bowel study is also requested, the exam may take from 2 to 4 hours. The extra time is necessary to follow the barium through the small intestine.

Preparation:

Day 1 – Day before Exam

1. You may eat or drink anything the day before the study until 10:00 pm. You are encouraged to drink plenty of fluids.
2. After 12:00, midnight, do not eat or drink anything until your exam has been completed on the following day.
3. After 12:00, midnight, do not smoke or chew gum until your exam has been completed on the following day.

Day 2 – Day of Exam

1. No breakfast, do not eat or drink until after test. Take NO medications.
2. Report at scheduled time.

PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR APPOINTMENT:

A PHOTO ID TO VERIFY YOUR IDENTITY

A LIST OF CURRENT MEDICATIONS YOU ARE TAKING

Procedure:

1. The x-ray technologist will explain the procedure and answer any questions.
2. You will be asked to drink a small glass of barium and to swallow some bubble-forming granules.
3. The Radiologist or Radiology PA will observe the filling and emptying of the stomach while you are upright and lying down. Several images will be taken during the procedure.
4. If your doctor has requested a small bowel study in addition to the Upper GI, you will drink a second glass of barium in the waiting room. You will remain in the department and images will be taken periodically as requested by the radiologist until the study is completed.

Special Instructions:

1. If you are routinely following a special diet (e.g., diabetic), consult your doctor concerning your diet for this study.
2. X-ray examination during pregnancy should be limited so that a developing baby will not be exposed to unnecessary radiation. The need for your study should be discussed with your doctor:
 - If it will be more than 10 days after the beginning of your last menstrual period, unless birth control methods are used, or
 - If you are, or think you might be, pregnant. Your doctor may consult with the radiologist about examination during pregnancy.
 - If you have questions concerning medications, contact your doctor or the Radiology Department.
 - Drink plenty of liquids for several days following the procedure. A mild laxative may be taken if you are easily constipated; consult your doctor as to type of laxative you may use. You may return to your normal diet unless other tests have been ordered.

Parking/Registration:

Park in the Mercy Medical Center 10th Street Parking Ramp, located at the corner of 10th Street and 8th Ave. SE. You will be pre-registered, so you can proceed to **Ground (G)** level and follow the signs to “Radiology (X-Ray),” also located on Ground (G) level.

Procedure Results (Who interprets the results):

A radiologist will review the images shortly after the exam is completed. A written report will be sent to your doctor. Your doctor will discuss the results with you. Please allow your physician time to review these results, usually 2 business days after the exam.

Your appointment date and time:

Procedure date: _____

Procedure time: _____ (Please arrive 15 minutes early)