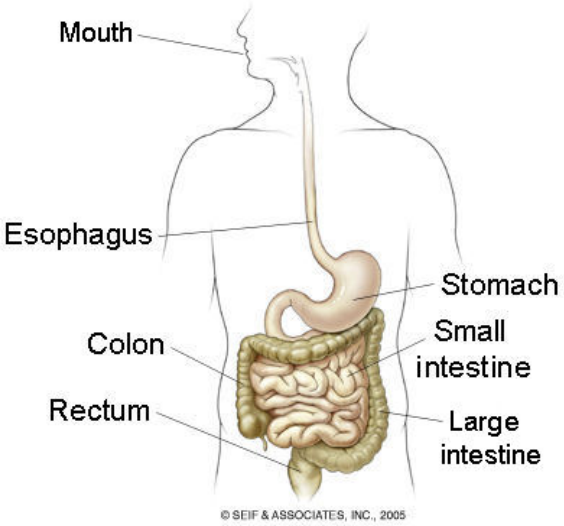
Lower GI X-ray Studies

Your doctor wants you to have this information about lower GI or colon x-rays. Lower GI x-ray studies are x-rays of your rectum and colon. A barium enema is used to examine the colon. Barium enemas are used to help evaluate complaints such as abdominal pain and blood in the stool. While these x-ray studies may cause some discomfort, they are not painful. The exam is performed by inserting a small enema tip into the rectum and putting chalky liquid into the colon. Sometimes air is also used with the barium. Then a number of x-rays are then taken from different positions.



You may feel bloated and have some cramping during the exam which usually takes 30 minutes to complete. After the x-rays are taken you will be shown a bathroom where you will expel the barium liquid. Your barium enema exam will be evaluated by a radiology specialist and the results sent to your doctor. **Be sure to ask your doctor for the results of the x-ray study. Please call your doctor if you have any questions about the results of your study, or if you have increased pain, rectal bleeding, constipation, or other problems**.

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