

Defaecating proctogram

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET SCR06



Your appointment:

Date:

Time:

Location:

Please see our website for more branch details.

Duration of examination

A Defaecating Proctogram takes approximately two hours in total.

Please bring with you:

- > Your request form
- > All previous relevant imaging
- > Medicare and any Healthcare cards

Payment on the day of the examination is requested.

For more information on this procedure please call one of our branches.

For more information regarding Benson Radiology please visit:

bensonradiology.com.au

What is a defaecating proctogram?

This test is an x-ray study used to visualise the mechanics of a patient's defaecation. It may be useful in the investigation of constipation, pain, incomplete bowel emptying, excessive straining at the toilet, bowel and bladder incontinence and prolapse.

What preparation is required?

There is no preparation required prior to the examination.

What will happen during the examination?

On the day of your examination, you will be given a drink of white liquid (barium) which is used to help show the intestines clearly during x-ray. It takes about one hour for this liquid to fill the bowel.

You will then be asked to change into a gown and a rectal enema tube will be inserted by the radiologist and a thickened barium paste introduced into the back passage. This will give you the feeling of needing to go to the toilet.

You will be assisted to a special toilet commode and asked to empty your bowels and an x-ray camera will make a recording.

During the procedure, the radiologist will be out of sight behind a screen. There will be no-one else in the room. The component of the test which requires you to sit on the x-ray toilet commode should take no more than two-three minutes.

This is the end of the proctogram procedure. Sometimes, the radiologist will recommend further tests depending upon your

symptoms and the examination findings.

Are there any risks?

The procedure is not painful.

You will receive a very small dose of x-ray radiation. The benefits of detecting disease are believed to outweigh any potential risks from receiving such a small dose.

The examination findings are often very helpful in assisting the referring doctor in gathering information about the nature of your pelvic floor problem and your best course of management.

After the examination

Our radiologist (specialist medical imaging doctor) will review and report on your imaging. This can take up to 90 minutes. For your convenience we can generally deliver the images and report to your doctor by the next working day. Alternatively your doctor may request that you wait or return later to collect the imaging and report.

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