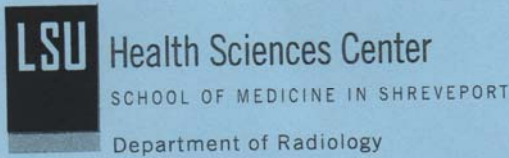


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Radiopaque Markers Test

Introduction

This test is used to evaluate the colonic transfer time whether it is normal or abnormal.

Patient Preparation

For the radiopaque marker test to be completed, you **cannot** use any drug that changes the bowel movements like laxatives, enemas, or suppositories. This time period for no laxatives is 2 days before the test and 5 days during the test; otherwise you can continue with your normal activity along with normal diet and medications.

Also before beginning your test, the x-ray tech will give you a hospital gown to wear. This gown has no metal snaps on it, because metal can show up on the x-ray. It is very important that everything underneath the gown be removed, including jewelry and underwear.

Patients who are pregnant or may be pregnant should not take this test. If you are a woman of childbearing age, you will be asked if there is a possibility that you are pregnant. It is important that you tell the x-ray tech the date of your last menstrual period and whether there is a chance that you may be pregnant.

Day 0 – Begin the test by simply taking the capsule (containing markers) by mouth with water.

Day 5 – Come to the 2nd floor x-ray department at LSUHSC from 8:00am to 3:00pm Monday through Friday to take an x-ray of your abdomen to determine the location of the markers.

***PATIENTS WHO RETAIN 5 OR LESS MARKERS ARE FINISHED WITH THIS EXAM.**

***PATIENTS WHO RETAIN 6 OR MORE MARKERS SHOULD CONTINUE THIS EXAM AND CONTINUE TO STAY OFF ANY LAXATIVES THAT COULD CHANGE BOWEL MOVEMENTS. THESE PATIENTS MUST CONTINUE TO TAKE AN ABDOMEN X-RAY ON DAYS 8, 9 OR 10 TO OBSERVE THE MOVEMENT OF THE MARKERS.**

During The Examination

Inside the x-ray room, you will be asked to lie down on a table and the x-ray tech will take an x-ray of your abdomen. You will be asked to hold your breath and be still during

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the x-ray. Once the abdomen film is completed, the x-ray tech will give your films to the radiologist to review.

Post-Examination Information

After your x-rays have been checked by the radiologist, your personal physician will receive a report of the test. Your physician will then tell you the results and discuss with you what further tests, if any, are needed.

The radiation that you are exposed to during this test passes through you immediately. You are not "radioactive" and it is not necessary to take any special precautions after your test.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE READING HERE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT AN X-RAY PROCEDURE, CALL YOUR PHYSICIAN OR THE X-RAY DEPARTMENT (318-675-6200 OR 318-675-6201) WHERE YOUR TEST WILL BE PERFORMED.