

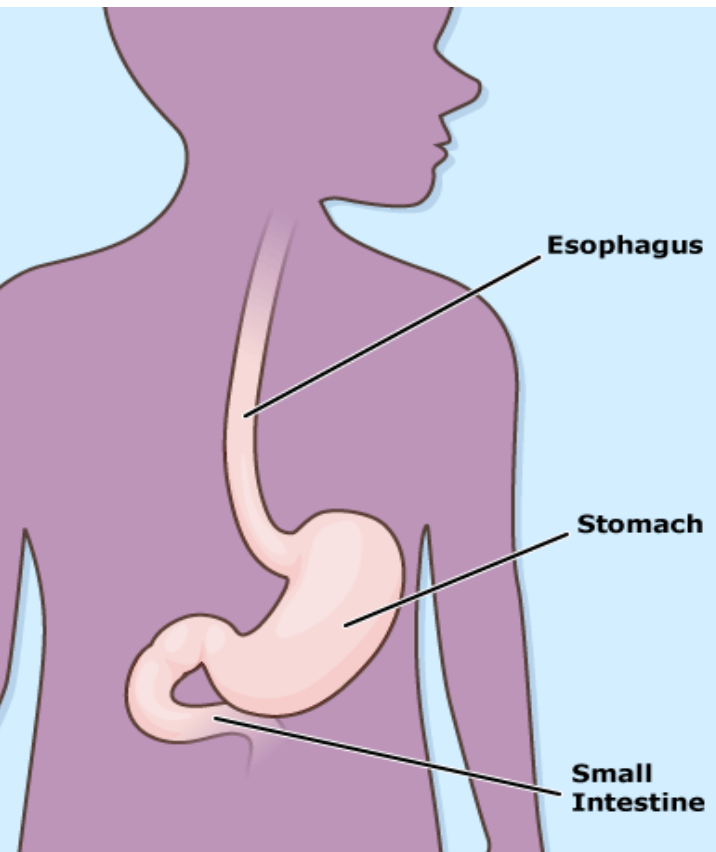
Time for pictures!



You're going to get an **upper GI**.
Here's what that's all about.

What is an upper GI?

An upper GI is an X-ray picture of your esophagus (the tube that connects your mouth to your stomach), stomach and the beginning of the small intestine (a long tube that breaks down the food you eat, so your body can absorb all the good parts like vitamins and proteins).



Arriving at the hospital

When you come to the hospital for your upper GI, you and your caregiver will check in at registration in the main lobby of the hospital. You and your caregiver will get a bracelet to wear. The bracelet has your name and birthday on it.



Where you'll wait

After registration, you and your caregiver will go to the radiology waiting room and check in with a receptionist at the front desk. There's a little room just for kids! This room has a table, chairs and a TV. When it is time for your pictures, a radiology technologist (or tech for short) will come to the waiting room and call your name and take you to the upper GI room.



Let's check out the upper GI room

This is a picture of the room where you will have your upper GI. You can see the X-ray bed, the X-ray camera and the TV screen where the pictures of your esophagus, stomach and small intestine show up.



TV

Camera

Bed

Your care team

Because we only want pictures of you, everyone else in the room will wear a lead apron — even the grown-ups who came with you. They'll also wear something over their neck that's called a "thyroid shield."



Getting your X-ray pictures

X-rays do not hurt. Once you lie down on the X-ray bed, the physician assistant (or PA) will come into the upper GI room to take your pictures. While the PA is taking pictures, the tech will be giving you something called barium to drink.

What is barium?

Barium is a liquid that helps the doctor see your esophagus, stomach and part of your small intestines during the X-ray pictures. Barium is thick like a milkshake but does not taste like one. You can choose to have it flavored with chocolate or strawberry syrup.

Taking your upper GI pictures

As you drink the barium, the PA will take pictures. The PA will take pictures of you standing up, lying down on your back, lying on your left side, lying on your right side and sometimes lying on your belly. Once all the pictures have been taken, the PA will slide the camera back and it will no longer be over your belly. That is how you know you are all done. You can now get off the X-ray bed.



Our child life specialists are here to help

Child life specialists can help reduce a child's fear associated with the hospital environment. They do this through therapeutic play, developmentally appropriate medical preparation and coping support. They can help you and your family understand what to expect during an upper GI.



Questions?

After reading this, you might have questions. Feel free to write them down (by yourself or with the help of your caregiver) and bring them with you to the hospital. We will make sure all your questions are answered before we start!



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GREAT JOB!

That's the end of your
upper GI. You're all done.

