

Time for pictures!

You're going to get a **modified barium swallow**.
Here's what that's all about.



What is a modified barium swallow?

A modified barium swallow (also called MBS) is an X-ray that takes pictures of your mouth and throat. The reason the doctors want to take these X-ray pictures is to see how safely you can swallow when drinking and eating.



Arriving at the hospital

When you come to the hospital for your modified barium swallow, 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 speech language pathologist, or SLP, will come to the waiting room and call your name. He or she will bring you to the MBS room.



Let's check out the MBS room

This is a picture of the room where you will have your MBS. You can see the chair that you will sit on and the X-ray camera.



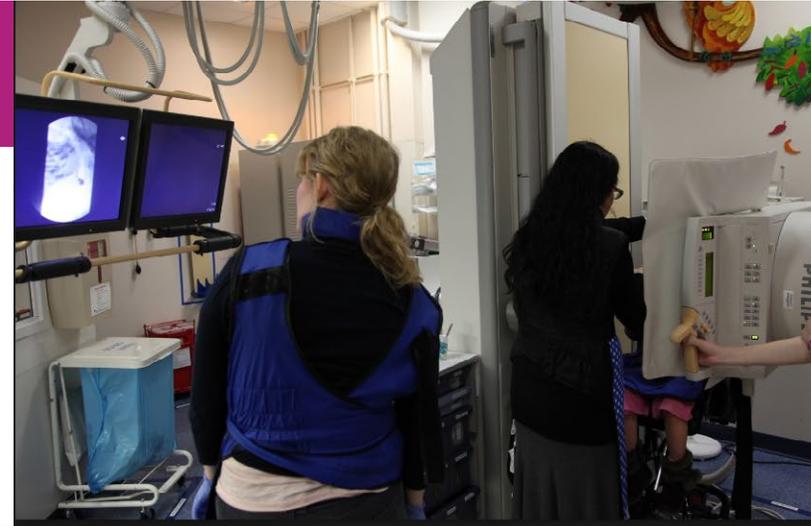
Your care team

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 MBS pictures

X-rays do not hurt. Once you sit in the X-ray chair, the physician assistant, or PA, will come into the MBS room to take the pictures of you eating and drinking. While the PA is taking pictures, the SLP will be giving you different kinds of barium to drink and eat.



What is barium?

Barium looks like a milkshake or pudding and helps drinks and food show up on your X-ray pictures. Your job will be to drink the barium from a bottle or cup, eat barium off a spoon and eat a graham cracker dipped in barium. You don't have to drink or eat a lot of the barium, just enough to see it on the X-ray picture.



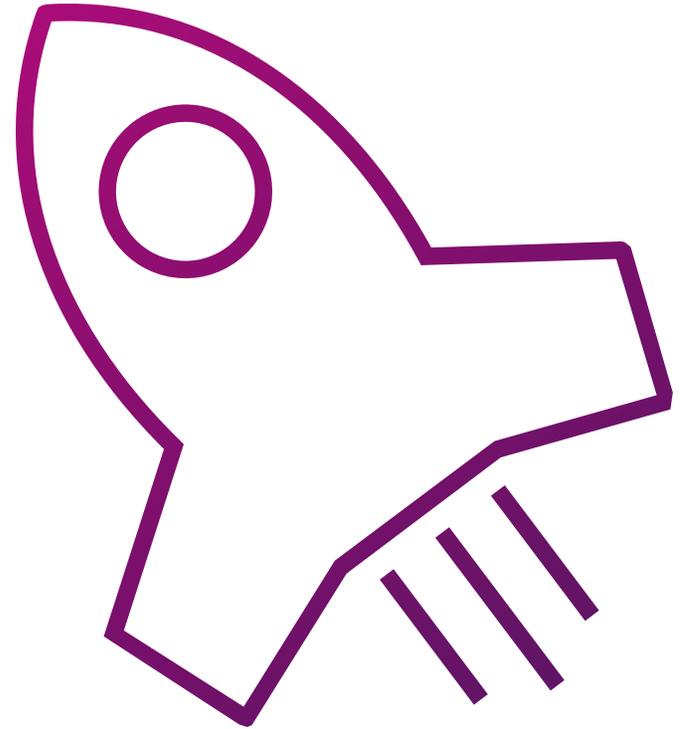
Finishing up

After the pictures are done, the SLP will talk to you and your caregiver about the pictures. Once you have talked about the pictures, you're all done.

A note to caregivers

Your child will need an empty stomach before the MBS. Ask your doctor about the guidelines regarding how many hours your child should stop eating and drinking before the procedure.

If your child drinks out of a certain bottle, sippy cup, cup or straw, please bring these items with you to the scheduled appointment. One caregiver will be allowed to come into the exam room. Other arrangements should be made for siblings.



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 a modified barium swallow.



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
modified barium swallow.
You're all done.**

