

Patient information

Information about your Videofluoroscopy examination *(for in-patients)*

About your examination

A video swallow (or video fluoroscopy) is a moving x-ray of your swallow.

Just before your appointment time an X-ray porter will take you to the X-ray department. They will collect you from the ward in a chair.

The video fluoroscopy procedure should not last longer than 20 - 30 minutes. Two speech and language therapists and a radiographer will be with you throughout the investigation.

You will be asked to either sit or stand on the foot of the x-ray table (or stay in your wheelchair) and one member of the team will give you various foods to swallow. This may be a **fluid** consistency or a **food** consistency. You will then be asked to swallow in the way you do normally. The food and fluid will be coated with 'barium' in order for the team to see it on the screen.

If you have any special dietary requirements or allergies, please let us know so that we can arrange for the appropriate food to be available.

Depending on the symptoms the team may ask you to lie down, if this is possible, for further imaging of the stomach. This will be discussed with you if it is considered necessary.

You should continue to take any medicines prescribed by your doctor. Take these with as little water as possible.

When will you get the results?

The scan / images will be examined after your procedure and a written report on the findings documented on e-Care, usually within 24 hours.

The Speech & Language Therapists will also offer feedback either immediately afterwards, or once you are back on your ward.

X-rays and pregnancy

Because of the potential risks to an unborn child we need to know, for certain examinations, if there is any possibility of a patient being pregnant.

All female patients between the ages of 12 years and 54 years of age will be asked if there is the possibility of pregnancy.

Discussion will be carried out in private and in confidence.

Patients below the age of 16 years may indicate whether or not they wish parents to be in attendance.

Children accompanying patients for imaging appointments must be able to remain unattended, as legally staff cannot look after them.

Teaching

The West Suffolk Hospital is a teaching Hospital and as part of their training it is necessary for students to observe examinations.

If you do not wish for an observer to be present please tell the receptionist on arrival.

As part of a shared service agreement with other NHS organisations, your radiology images and records may be shared with these other organisations as part of determining and providing your care.

If you would like to know more about the extent of this sharing, or you wish us not to share at all with another organisation, or have any other concerns about it, please contact a member of staff.

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (the new name for DisabledGo)

<https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust>

