



Esophagram

A doctor may recommend an esophagram if you experience difficulty swallowing. An esophagram will show the anatomical and functional status of the esophagus. Esophagrams can help doctors identify why you are experiencing difficulty swallowing.

Important note: do not eat or drink for at least four hours before an esophagram to ensure that your stomach is empty.

How Does an Esophagram Work?

You will swallow a liquid that enhances your provider's ability to assess your swallowing, such as barium or gastrografin, which are easily visualized on X-ray. A series of X-ray photos are taken while you are swallowing this special liquid.

You may need to repeat these steps multiple times to ensure the esophagram gathers as much information as possible.

What Kind of Information Does an Esophagram Provide?

Esophagrams are a quick, inexpensive, and effective screening method for detecting tumors and/or complications arising from cancer treatment. Esophagrams are part of a series of tests to help your provider determine a plan of care.

A special type of esophagram known as modified barium swallow study (MBSS) utilizes various barium-infused substances of different consistencies to simulate how you swallow normal food and liquids. For this study, X-ray photos are taken of the mouth and throat, rather than just of the esophagus. This method can determine your readiness to maintain or progress your diet.

An MBSS can be combined with an esophagram to visualize the entire swallowing mechanism from the mouth to the end of the esophagus.



Please note that this information is intended for educational purposes. It does not replace consultation with your doctor, and it should not be interpreted as medical advice. We encourage you to speak to your health care provider if you have further questions or concerns regarding your medical care.

For more information scan this code or visit:

<https://thangguide.org/cancer-basics/diagnosis/imaging/esophagram/>