

Videofluoroscopic swallowing study

A patient's advice sheet

What is a videofluoroscopic swallowing study?

Videofluoroscopic swallowing study (VFSS) or Modified Barium Swallow (MBS) refers to a procedure that uses X-ray images to observe a person as they swallow liquids and solids.

Procedure

Your expected length of stay in the department is 45 minutes.

You will be seated in an X-ray machine and asked to drink or eat liquids and food of different consistencies. These are mixed with a contrast liquid (Iodine based contrast or Barium) so we that are able to see the food or drink on the X-ray. The consistencies may include thin liquids, thicker liquids, a puree consistency, cake and biscuit. The X-ray of your swallow will be recorded. If you drink using a special cup or straw, please bring it with you.

You will be able to ask questions during the procedure and you can bring someone to the assessment with you. You will receive initial information at the end of the assessment. A more detailed report will be written by the speech and language therapist and sent to the appropriate professionals within a week e.g. your GP, consultant, community speech and language therapist. Please let us know whether you would like a copy of the report.

Staff present

There will be a speech and language therapist and a radiographer involved in your procedure. They may be male or female. A Radiologist may also be present at the videofluoroscopy.

Please note:

- If Barium is used, you should not be surprised if your bowel movements are white for a day or so as the barium passes through your system. You should drink plenty of water as Barium can make you constipated.
- If Iodine dye is used, there is a small chance your stool will become loose while it is in your body.
- You can drive home afterwards.
- If you have any queries about this appointment or are unable to keep it please call us.
- Please inform us if you might be PREGNANT or allergic to Iodine based contrast agents.

If you have any questions, please contact Speech & Language Therapy on 01480 364732.