

# **Modified Barium Swallow Test**

**If you have a cold, flu, fever or are feeling ill, contact the Bookings Office at 519-631-2030, ext. 2322 prior to coming for your test.**

## **What is a Modified Barium Swallow Test?**

A modified barium swallow test, also known as a videofluoroscopic swallowing study (VFSS), is a dynamic imaging test used to evaluate how a person swallows.

## **What will happen during a Modified Barium Swallow Test?**

You will be instructed to remove neck chains and earrings.

For the test, you'll sit like you normally do to eat or drink. You will be asked to drink and eat small amounts of food and liquid, which are mixed with barium. Under fluoroscopic x-ray control, you will be moved in various positions and at times will be asked to hold your breath.

The examination may take approximately 30 minutes.

## **What will happen after the Modified Barium Swallow Test?**

It is recommended that you increase your water/clear fluid intake over the next few days as barium can be constipating. The Speech Language Pathologist will send the report to your physician. The results will be given to you by your physician.

## **How to prepare for a Modified Barium Swallow Test?**

**No preparation required – eat and drink as normal.**

- **Bring dentures if you have them**
- **Bring a current medication list**
- **If the patient cannot sign consent, a Power of Attorney (POA) should be available to provide consent for the test. If consent is not given, the test may need to be canceled.**

