

Oral Contrast Challenge for Small Bowel Obstruction

What

A functional radiologic exam to help predict the success of conservative measures for the management of small bowel obstruction.

Details

This order panel involves oral or enteric tube administration of 100 mL of Omnipaque-350, an iohexol-based water-soluble contrast (350 mg Iodine/mL concentration) followed by two follow-up abdominal radiographs performed at 8 and 24 hours after the contrast administration.

Radiology does not order or administer the oral contrast. Radiology's role is to interpret the films. Fluoroscopy is not necessary for this protocol. The abdominal XRs may be performed as portable films, or in the Radiology Department, where, depending on body habitus, the image quality may be improved.

Interpretation

The oral challenge is considered successful if oral contrast medium transits into the colon by 24 hours, and/or bowel function returns. If either of these occur, the ordering team should cancel any subsequent AXR orders.

Process

Ordering, administering, and documenting the contrast:

- Provider orders the oral contrast challenge (order set).
- RN (preferred) administers the contrast at bedside (PO or via NG, GT, J Tube). Tube should then be clamped for 2-3 hrs.
- RN documents the administration of contrast in the MAR.
- RN contacts the Radiology technologist at pager x 9217 once contrast is given.
- Once the radiology technologist is alerted to the time the contrast is given they will coordinate and schedule the images for 8 and 24 hours post administration.
- Radiology technologist should label the images with the time (ie 8 hrs post or 24 hrs post).
- Images will be in PACS on the Fluoro worklist.

References

Water-Soluble Contrast Challenge for Suspected Small-Bowel Obstruction: Technical Success Rate, Accuracy, and Clinical Outcomes <https://www.ajronline.org/doi/pdf/10.2214/AJR.21.26132>
AJR- 2021; 217:1–2 ♣ ISSN-L 0361–803X/21/2176–1 ♣ © American Roentgen Ray Society

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American College of Radiology - ACR Appropriateness Criteria® 2019 Suspected Small-Bowel Obstruction <https://acsearch.acr.org/docs/69476/Narrative/>