

You are here / Home / Services, specialties / Diagnostic services / Additional diagnostic tests

Additional Diagnostic Tests - Barium Meals & Bone Density Scans



In addition to the more common diagnostic tests, Cromwell Hospital also offers barium meals and bone density scans for patients who have been referred by their GP or specialist.

What is a Barium meal?

Commonly known as a 'barium meal', this test is used to examine the stomach and oesophagus. Because these structures are not clearly visible on a standard X-ray, a barium meal is used to coat the gut wall.

This makes it possible for the doctor to see moving pictures of the stomach and intestines.

For further details read our [Bone density scan patient information](#) guide.

What is a Bone Density Scan?

A bone density scan, also known as a DEXA scan, is used to measure the density of fragile bones (osteoporosis). You may benefit from having a bone density scan if you have had a bone fracture, a minor fall or bump, or are in a high-risk group for osteoporosis.

The results of the scan help to predict how likely different bones are to fracture, and to monitor how well your osteoporosis treatment is working.

A detector measures how much radiation passes through the bones and works out how dense the bone is, compared to what is normal for someone of your age and sex. A low score indicates the bone is fragile and therefore more likely to fracture.

The test is carried out by using an x-ray machine to slowly pass over the body and take images of the bones being tested. This usually takes 20-30 minutes and is painless.

After the test, the results are sent to the GP or consultant who requested the test.

For further details read our [Bone density scan patient information](#) guide.

How do I pay for treatment?

We welcome both insured and self-pay patients as well as company and embassy sponsored patients.

[Read more about payment options](#)

Cookie Settings

This site uses cookies to store information on your computer, to improve your experience. One of the cookies this site uses is essential for parts of the site to operate and has already been set. You may delete and block all cookies from this site, but parts of the site will not work. To find out more about the cookies this site uses and how to delete them, please see the [privacy notice](#).

I accept cookies from this site.

Continue



Services, specialties

[A-Z services and specialties](#)

[Cancer Centre](#)

[Children's Centre](#)

[Diagnostic services](#)

[Kensington Diagnostic Centre](#)

[Diagnostic tests](#)

[Ultrasound and vascular ultrasound](#)

[Mammography and Breast screening](#)

[Additional diagnostic tests](#)

[Endocrine Centre](#)

[Heart Centre](#)

[Liver and Gastrointestinal Centre](#)

[Lung Centre](#)

[Neuroscience Centre](#)

[Orthopaedic Centre](#)

[Surgery](#)

[Weight management](#)

Further Information

[Patient downloads](#)

Make an appointment

8am-8pm Monday to Friday

8am-2pm Saturday

Call our Contact Centre on

+44 (0)20 7460 5700

[CONTACT US >](#)

[International Patient Centre](#)

Related services and specialties

Show +

- [Radiology](#)

Related downloads

Show +

[Barium meal patient information](#)

[Bone density scan patient information](#)



Bupa's health information

Show

For more information on these conditions, treatments and maintaining a healthy lifestyle, please select a subject of interest to you. This information will open in a new window.

- Pelvic and abdominal ultrasound
- X-ray

مركز المرضى الوافدين من الخارج
 Centre International des patients
 Διεθνές Κέντρο Ασθενών
 Международный медицинский центр

[FOR VISITORS TO THE UK >](#)

Find a medical consultant

Search by name, specialty, gender or language

[FIND A SPECIALIST >](#)



Call the Contact Centre on +44 (0)20 7460 5700

We can take your call between 8am-8pm Monday to Friday, and between 9am-2pm Saturdays.



Let us call you back

Arrange for us to call you back at a more convenient time to discuss your needs.



Email the Contact Centre

Send us an email enquiry and we will get back to you.

For patients

Referrals and appointments
 Outpatients
 Inpatients
 Paediatric patients
 International Patient Centre
 Patient Registration
 Accessing medical records

For health professionals

Videos of our health professionals
 For General Practitioners
 Doctor's Library
 Practice privileges
 Applications access for Health Professionals

Services and specialties

A-Z services and specialties
 Cancer Centre
 Children's Centre
 Diagnostic services
 Endocrine Centre
 Heart Centre
 Liver and Gastrointestinal Centre
 Lung Centre
 Neuroscience Centre
 Orthopaedic Centre
 Surgery
 Weight management

About our hospital

About our hospital
 Latest hospital news

For businesses

UK corporate health
 Overseas evacuations

About Bupa

Financial information
 Careers
 Media centre
 Contact Bupa

