

## What is a Nuclear Medicine Gastric Emptying Scan?

A Nuclear Medicine Gastric Emptying Scan is a test to measure the speed with which food empties from your stomach into the small intestine. Your doctor may ask for this test if you have unexplained nausea or vomiting, or for certain other conditions.

## Preparation for the scan

You will need to fast from midnight the day before the scan. Do not smoke for the same period of time.

Bring a list of current medications you are taking. If you take any of the following medications, please consult your doctor before the scan as they may affect results:

- Metoclopramide, domperidone, erythrocyline, tegaserod
- Antidepressants
- Opiates or antispasmodic agents
- Anticholinesterases

If you are on a gluten-free diet please bring along two slices of gluten-free bread.

Please contact the department if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

## About the Procedure

Initially you will be required to eat a meal of scrambled eggs on toast. The eggs will contain a small amount of radioactive tracer which is colourless and tasteless.

Immediately after the meal is consumed we will take a one (1) minute picture of your stomach with you standing in front of the camera. You will return at 30 minutes, 1 hour, 2 hours, 3 hours and 4 hours for follow-up pictures to see how the meal has digested.

You will not be able to eat until the entire procedure is finished.

## Is it safe?

The amount of radioactive material given for the scan is very small. There are no associated side effects and you will not need to take any precautions after the scan.

## Results

The Nuclear Medicine Physician will evaluate the results of your scan and send a report to your referring doctor. The results are usually available approximately one week following the procedure.

### Contact us

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