

Gastric emptying study

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET



Your appointment:

Date:

Time:

Location:

Please see our website for more branch details.

Duration of examination

This examination takes approximately 4 hours.

Please bring with you:

- > Your request form
- > All previous relevant imaging
- > Medicare and any Healthcare cards

Payment on the day of the examination is requested.

For more information on this procedure please call one of our branches.

For more information regarding Benson Radiology please visit:

bensonradiology.com.au

What is a gastric emptying study?

This scan is designed to investigate the movements of solids from your stomach to your bowel.

Patient preparation

You will be required to fast from food, and cease smoking and alcohol for eight hours prior to scan.

Please advise the department if you take any gastrointestinal medications, as you will be required to cease these prior to your scan.

If you take insulin, ensure you bring it with you. Staff will instruct you when you are able to take it.

If you are allergic to eggs please advise staff when booking your appointment so that an alternative meal may be provided.

What will happen during the examination?

We will be looking at how solids move from your stomach into your small bowel. The technologist will explain the procedure to you and then prepare a meal for the test. The meal consists of scrambled eggs with a small amount of radioactive tracer added. This will enable us to see how food moves through your stomach.

There are no side effects associated with the eggs and the radioactive tracer will not make the meal taste any different.

Once you have consumed the eggs you will be positioned lying on your back under the

gamma camera. Images are taken over a period of 4 hours. These images detect the radioactive eggs in your stomach and allow us to assess how long it takes to digest a meal.

Are there any risks?

This examination has no associated side effects.

Pregnant, breast feeding patients and carers of infants

This examination is not suitable for pregnant women.

Breastfeeding mothers may undergo the procedure, but will need to cease breast feeding for 12 hours after the scan. Breast milk should be expressed and discarded during this period. Breast feeding may resume after the 12 hours.

For some examinations it may be required to avoid prolonged close contact with infants and young children. If you have any queries regarding this please speak with our technical staff on the day of your appointment.

After the examination

A nuclear medicine specialist will review and report on your imaging. This can take up to 90 minutes. For your convenience we can generally deliver the images and report to your doctor by the next working day.

Alternatively your doctor may request that you wait or return later to collect the imaging and report.

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