

Gastric Emptying Study

Patient Information

What to expect at arrival:

Please arrive 30 minutes prior to the appointment. The first place to go after arriving is admissions. The physician's office should have provided a written order to the patient. Please take the order to admissions for registration. After checking in, the next stop will be the Radiology desk. The exam should start quickly from the scheduled time. Since Northeast Georgia is a major medical center there are emergencies that could arise that might extend wait time. Please try to be patient and be assured that we will begin your procedure as quickly as possible.

What is Nuclear Medicine?

Nuclear Medicine is a radiology modality that uses radiopharmaceuticals to image the body's anatomy and physiology. The images are obtained after an intravenous injection or an oral administration of the radioactive pharmaceutical. Depending on the study, the images can take 20 to 30 minutes or could take a few hours or multiple days, depending on the study. The radiation from the pharmaceuticals is minimal.

Patient Prep:

Stay NPO (nothing by mouth) six hours prior to the Gastric Emptying exam. If you have medications that need to be taken, take them early as needed, before the exam with a very small amount of plain water. **Please let the technologist know if there is any possibility that you may be pregnant.**

Your Gastric Emptying Study:

When you are brought to the Nuclear Medicine department, a technologist will verify the orders and patient identification. A technologist will ask a series of questions and explain the procedure. You will have to eat a few bites of oatmeal with a very small amount of radiation in it. The radiation does not have any taste or smell. There are no known side effects from the pharmaceutical. Images will be taken directly after eating the oatmeal and will last for one to two hours. The camera will be over the abdomen and is nearly silent and does not release any radiation.

Recovery/Home:

There are no restrictions after a Gastric Emptying exam. Continue normal activity. The radiologist will interpret the exam and send the results to your physician's office.



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