



Gastric Emptying Study

PATIENT INFORMATION

What is a Gastric Emptying Study?

A gastric emptying study is a nuclear medicine test that measures how quickly food moves from the stomach into the small intestine to diagnose conditions like gastroparesis. It involves eating a small meal containing a radioactive tracer, followed by imaging with a gamma camera at timed intervals to track the digestion process.

What will happen during the examination?

All patients must fast for 6 hours prior to a gastric emptying study.

At the start of the study, you will be given a small “meal” to eat. This meal will consist of a scrambled egg sandwich. Please tell us at the time of your booking if you have any food allergies or if you are vegetarian as alternative meals can be arranged. A small amount of radioactive tracer is added to the meal. This does not alter the taste of the food but will allow the gamma camera to track the passage of food through your stomach. There are no side effects to the tracer and it will not interfere with any medications you may be taking.

Generally, we like you to eat your meal within a 5-minute period, imaging then commences immediately. Multiple images are captured over 4 hours with large breaks in between. During this time you will not be able to leave the department.

Occasionally some doctors are interested in seeing the difference in how your stomach empties solid food and liquids. In these cases you will need to have this study done twice – once with the radioactivity in a sandwich and once in a drink. You must have at least one day break between scans (eg solid test Monday and liquid test Wednesday)

Pregnant and/or breastfeeding

This examination is not suitable for pregnant women.

Breastfeeding mothers should contact our department before their appointment to discuss any specific preparation. You will need to express and discard milk but can resume feeding after your appointment.

After the examination

Our radiologist will review and report on your images and we will deliver them electronically to your doctor.



07 5489 0800



07 5489 0888



info@gympieradiology.com.au



0428 034 722



**gympie
radiology**

www.gympieradiology.com.au