

Gastric Emptying Study – A Nuclear Medicine Exam of Your Digestive System

You have been scheduled for a Gastric Emptying Study, which involves the use of a small amount of radioactive material. The level of radioactivity used is extremely low and has no side effects.

You will be positioned next to a special detector called a Gamma Camera. The camera does not produce any radiation. It will be placed close to your abdomen during the test.

Patient Information:

1. Please report to *Goshen Hospital* **15 minutes** prior to your scheduled test time. This time is to allow for the registration process. Please bring your insurance cards.
2. After you are registered, a Nuclear Medicine Technologist will obtain your pertinent medical history. You will then be asked to consume a solid meal with a small amount of radioactivity mixed into the meal.
3. You will be positioned in front of an imaging camera and images will be obtained for approximately 4 hours at different time intervals.
4. Please be sure to bring a book to read or other literature with you to your appointment.

Patient Preparation:

- Nothing to eat or drink 4 to 6 hours before your exam.
- No Barium X-rays or CAT Scans prior to the Gastric Emptying Study.

Let the Technologist Know:

For the success of the scan and for your safety, tell the technologist if you:

- Are pregnant or breastfeeding (*or if there is any chance of pregnancy*).
- Have had a Gastric Emptying Study before (*or other tests pertaining to your symptoms*).
- Have had a recent Barium Study or x-rays using contrast.
- Have had any abdominal surgeries, including stomach surgery.

You may be asked about your overall health to aid in assessing your images.

For Best Results:

Relax and remain as still as you can. This will help ensure that the images taken will be clear and will not have to be repeated.

Scan Tips:

- Prepare for the test as instructed.
- Ask how long the test will take.
- Bring something you can do while waiting to have your scan.
- Be ready to talk about your health and any allergies you may have (*it may be helpful to write down surgery dates, medications, etc.*).

My Appointment:

Date:

Time:

Place: ***Goshen Hospital***
200 High Park
Goshen, Indiana 46526
574-364-2605

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO KEEP THIS APPOINTMENT, PLEASE CONTACT THE NUCLEAR MEDICINE DEPARTMENT AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF YOUR APPOINTMENT AT 574-364-2605.

Notes:

After Your Scan:

After your test, you may return to your normal routine. The tracer will leave your body within a few days. To hasten this process, drink extra water and urinate frequently for 24 hours after your scan. Your referring physician will receive a written report from the Gastric Emptying Study 24-48 hours after your test is complete.

What is Nuclear Medicine?

Nuclear Medicine is a medical specialty which uses safe, painless and cost-effective techniques both to image the body and treat disease. Nuclear Medicine imaging is unique in that it documents organ function and structure in contrast to Diagnostic Radiology which is based on anatomy. Nuclear Medicine allows your physician to gather medical information which may otherwise be unavailable, require surgery, or necessitate more expensive diagnostic tests.

Nuclear Medicine uses very small amounts of radioactive materials or radiopharmaceuticals to diagnose and treat disease.

Radiopharmaceuticals are substances that are attracted to specific organs, bones or tissues. The radiopharmaceuticals used in Nuclear Medicine emit gamma rays which can be detected externally by special types of cameras called Gamma Cameras. These cameras work in conjunction with computers and are used to create images which provide data and information about the area of the body being imaged.

This patient information sheet was provided to you courtesy of the Goshen Hospital Nuclear Medicine Department as part of our commitment to superior healthcare. This is for informational purposes only and is not intended as a substitute for discussion between you and your physician. Please consult with your physician or a member of our Nuclear Medicine Department staff if you would like more information about specific procedures.

01/2017



200 High Park
Goshen, IN 46526

Nuclear Medicine Department

Phone: 574-364-2605
Fax: 574-364-2843

Information for our Nuclear Medicine Patients

*Inform your physician if you are pregnant or
breast feeding*

GASTRIC EMPTYING STUDY

What is a Gastric Emptying Study?

A Gastric Emptying Study is a special imaging test. It is used to find digestive problems, such as delayed stomach digestion. A Gastric Emptying Study uses a small amount of an injected radioactive matter (tracer) and a camera to form an image. It is a type of Nuclear Medicine Scan. Your doctor has decided that the value of this test outweighs any risk.