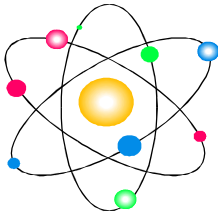


Solid Gastric Emptying



UHN

Information for Patients



How Nuclear Medicine works

Nuclear medicine exams assess how your organs work. This is different from other areas of radiology, which create images based on your anatomy.

During a Nuclear Medicine procedure, you will swallow, inhale, or receive an injection of a radioactive material called a **radiopharmaceutical**. When the radiopharmaceutical reaches the right area, a technologist will take pictures of you with a special machine called a gamma camera.

What is a SOLID gastric emptying test?

A gastric emptying test is done to measure how fast solid food leaves your stomach.

What is the test like?

- You will be given an egg sandwich which has a small amount of radioactive tracer.
- If you have an egg allergy, we will give you another meal.
- We will take one-minute images every 30 minutes for 90 minutes. Between pictures, you can walk and move around.

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Author: JDMI Nuclear Medicine

Created: 10/2008

Form: D-5572



What happens after the test?

There are no known side effects from the test. You may go back to your normal activities once the examination is over. The report will be sent to your doctor.

Preparing for the test

- Do **NOT** have anything to eat for 6 hours before your appointment.
- If you do not have a blue card from University Health Network, please come 30 minutes before your appointment time and go to Patient Registration, located on the ground floor near the Elizabeth Street entrance or at the desk of the main University Avenue entrance.

For female patients

If there is any chance that you are pregnant, tell the technologist **before** you are injected with the radioactive tracer. **You will need to stop breastfeeding 24 hours for this test**, so tell the technologist if you are nursing a baby.

Your solid gastric emptying test has been scheduled on _____
at _____.

If you have any questions or concerns about the test, or if you need to cancel or reschedule your appointment, please contact the Nuclear Medicine department, Toronto General Hospital at 416-340-3311.

At Toronto General Hospital, the Nuclear Medicine department is located on the first floor of the hospital, ES1-408, near the east elevators.

Check in at the Medical Imaging reception area (University Avenue entrance, across from the pharmacy) **15 minutes before your appointment.**