

GASTRIC EMPTYING STUDY

Information Brochure



NORTH SHORE RADIOLOGY
& NUCLEAR MEDICINE

North Shore Private Hospital
Westbourne Street, St Leonards 2065
Tel: (02) 8425 3684, Fax: (02) 8425 3688

Nuclear Medicine Physicians
Dr Elizabeth Bernard FRACP
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INFORMATION ABOUT GASTRIC EMPTYING STUDY

What is it?

This is a test to measure the movement of food through your stomach. For this test a small amount of radioactive compound is added to a cooked egg and placed in a sandwich for ingestion. A different compound is then added to a small cup of water, which is drunk after the sandwich. A specialised camera is then used to take pictures (scans) of your stomach.

How is the test done and how long does it take?

After the test is explained to you, a technologist will take you to the scanning area. You will be given the sandwich to eat and the radiolabelled water to drink and then a set of pictures will be taken. Pictures will continue to be taken for the next 2 hours.

Is it painful and are there any side effects?

No. There are no side effects or reaction from the radiolabelled compound you have ingested. The procedure itself is completely painless. There is no need to hold your breath during the test.

Can I take my normal medications?

Yes. Take all your usual medications unless told to by your physician.

Can I eat and drink on the day of the test?

No. You should fast from midnight the night before the commencement of the test. Please inform the technologist when booking the appointment if you have any food allergies or intolerances.

What if I am pregnant?

The test is usually not performed in pregnant women, so if you know that you are (or think you might be) pregnant, please inform us before the test begins.

Will I get the result when I leave?

In general, the scans and results are sent to your doctor the next working day. Depending on the type of scan you are having (and the clinical urgency), you may be able to take the scan with you in some cases, however there will be a delay while the report is typed.

Can I drive home after the scan?

Yes. You will not be drowsy in any way.

What should I do on the day of the test?

Please remember to bring your requesting letter and any recent X-rays or CT scans. At the time of your appointment, report to North Shore Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, which is located on the ground floor of North Shore Private Hospital in Westbourne St.

If you have any questions please phone North Shore Radiology and Nuclear Medicine on 8425 3684. We will be happy to answer any queries that you may have.

An appointment has been made for you at

Time:

Date:

Estimate:

If you are unable to keep your appointment please notify us as early as possible so we can arrange a more suitable time.

Please bring with you all relevant previous x-rays and scans that you have in your possession.

Parking

Metered street parking is available on Westbourne Street. Parking is also available in the multi-storey car parks P1 & P2. Concession, daily and weekly passes are available for purchase at the Parking Office located in the P2 multi-storey car park. The Parking Office also has information about long-term parking costs and conditions. Valet Parking is available from the main entrance of North Shore Private Hospital via Westbourne Street.



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