

What is a Nuclear Medicine Gastric Emptying Scan?

A Nuclear Medicine Gastric Emptying Scan is a test to look at how your stomach is functioning.

To look at the stomach, you will eat a “meal” containing a small amount of a radioactive dye (tracer).

If you have any questions, our staff can answer these before we start the scan.

Please call us on (04) 806 2913 if you:

- Are pregnant or breastfeeding
- Take any of these medicines:
 - Metoclopramide, Domperidone, Erythrocyline, Tegaserod
 - Antidepressants
 - Opiates or antispasmodic agents
 - Anticholinesterases
- Have an allergy to eggs

How do I prepare for the scan?

You must not eat or smoke anything (including e-cigarettes?) for **8 hours** before your scan.

If you eat gluten-free food, please bring along two slices of gluten-free bread.

What happens during the scan?

When you arrive, we will make you a “meal” of scrambled eggs on toast. The eggs will contain a small amount of radioactive tracer which has no taste or smell.

When you have finished eating, we take the first picture. It only takes one minute.

We repeat the pictures at 30 minutes, 1, 2, 3 and 4 hours to see how the meal has been digested.

You will not be able to eat until the entire procedure is finished.

Is it safe?

Yes, there are no associated side effects to the radioactive injection.

The amount of radioactive material given for the scan is small.

The radioactive tracer disappears naturally by a process called decay.

Results

The Nuclear Medicine Radiologist will evaluate the results of your scan and send a report to your referring doctor.

The results are available approximately two weeks following the procedure.

Contact us

Phone: (04) 8062193

Hours: 8am-4pm, Monday to Friday

Email: radiology.admin@ccdhb.org.nz