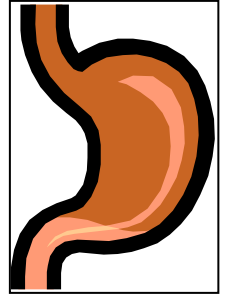


## Nuclear Medicine: Gastric Emptying Study

### What is a gastric emptying study?

A gastric emptying study is a test used to evaluate your stomach. For this test, the patient eats a small meal that contains a radioactive material. Then pictures are taken as the stomach empties.



### Do I need to prepare for this test?

Yes.

- You must not **eat or drink anything 4 hours before** the exam.
- You may not smoke **4 hours before** the exam.
- You may not take Zantac or Prilosec **4 hours before** the exam.

### What is the test like?

- This test usually takes 2 hours and may take up to 4 hours.
- You will eat a meal of egg whites and toast that contain a small amount of radioactive material. Side effects to this radioactive material are extremely rare. However, tell the technologist if you are breastfeeding or if there is any chance of pregnancy.
- After you eat the meal, you will lie on a table with a camera over your abdomen.
- Pictures will be taken for 60 minutes.
- Then you will return in 1 hour for an additional picture that will take 10 minutes.
- Some patients will need to return in 3 and 4 hours to take additional 10 minute pictures.

### What happens after the gastric emptying study?

You may return to your regular activities. A radiologist will review the pictures and send a report to your doctor.

If you have any questions about this test, please feel free to contact Nuclear Medicine at (203) 688-5610.