

Gastric Emptying Scan- A gastric emptying scan (GES) is a nuclear medicine exam that uses a special radioactive material that allows physicians to identify abnormalities related to emptying of the stomach. Diseases that involve changes in the way the stomach contracts (motility disorders) are best diagnosed by this test.

If you are a female patient between the ages of 9 and 55 you are required to either consent to a pregnancy test or sign a Pregnancy Test Waiver form prior to your exam. The only exception will be for females with a history of total hysterectomy. If you are breastfeeding please inform the technologist before your exam.

You must be NPO (**nothing to eat or drink- including medications**) after midnight the day of the test. If you are diabetic please consult your physician as to any special instructions concerning your diabetes prior to the test. Please bring your current home medications or a list of your medications with you the day of the test. You may be asked to remove some or all of your clothes and wear a gown during the test. You may also be asked to remove jewelry, removable dental hardware, eye glasses, and any metal objects or clothing that might interfere with the images.

The duration of this test is dependent on how your body functions. Every individual is different but the average time for the test is 1 hour. No imaging will be done after 90 minutes.

You will be given a meal to eat which contains a radioactive tracer mixed in your food. An immediate image of your stomach will be taken with you standing, using the nuclear medicine camera. Images will be taken every 15 to 30 minutes to determine how long it takes your stomach to empty the food out. Each image takes one minute. You will be allowed to sit up between images.

The test may require you to stand or lie flat. Multiple images of your anatomy will be taken using a nuclear medicine camera. The images will be taken at timed intervals during the exam. The images will be reviewed by a Radiologist (a doctor that reads x-rays) and a report will be sent to your ordering physician in 48 hours. Unless your physician tells you otherwise, you may resume your normal activities after your nuclear medicine scan. If any special instructions are necessary, you will be informed by a technologist, nurse or physician before you leave the nuclear medicine department.