

## Gastric Emptying Study

Your doctor has asked us to carry out a Gastric Emptying study on you.

### Appointment details

**Patient name:**

**Date of appointment:**

**Time of appointment:**

**Scan time:**

Every effort will be made to keep to this time, but due to the nature of the investigations, delay can occur for which we apologise in advance.

If you are unable to keep your appointment, please inform us at least 24 hours in advance of your scan, due to the high cost of the non-returnable Radio-isotope used during this scan there will be a cancellation cost of £300 if cancelled with less notice.

Please telephone 01483 442696, so an alternative appointment can be arranged for you.

### What does the Gastric Emptying study involve?

This simple scan will show the rate at which your food or drink leaves your stomach. We will ask you to eat a portion of porridge mixed with a small amount of radioactivity. We will then ask you to sit in a semi recumbent position for a period of 90 minutes whilst pictures of your stomach are taken by a gamma camera.

We can play CDs in the camera room, so if you wish, please bring with you music that you would like to listen to.

### Preparation required for the Gastric Emptying Study

**You should not have any food or drink or smoke after midnight. If thirsty you may have sips of water.**

Please carry on with your normal medication.

### **Can I bring somebody with me?**

It is very important that you do not bring children or pregnant friends with you because the gastric emptying scan uses radiation and children and pregnant women are particularly susceptible to radiation.

### **Special Warnings**

Side effects from the radiotracer are rare.

A very small amount of radioactivity is administered into your body. The risk this involves is very small and your physician will not consider carrying out the investigation unless he believes that the risk is outweighed by the potential benefit of the study.

Further guidance has been published by Public Health England.

Visit website- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ionising-radiation-from-medical-imaging-examinations-safety-advice>

### **Do I need to do anything after the scan?**

If you are having surgery in the afternoon of the day of the scan, please follow the advised fasting instructions. If your surgery is the day after the scan, you may eat, drink and take your medication as normal.

**Also, it is advised that for 12 hours following the radiopharmaceutical injection, you should avoid prolonged close contact with pregnant women, babies and children.**

Further information is available should you require it.

### **Information for ladies**

If you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant, we need to know before the ingestion of radioactivity.

In addition, if you are currently breastfeeding, again please inform the staff, as for certain procedures you may have to discontinue breast feeding for a certain period.

For further information please contact us in the Molecular Imaging unit on 01483 442696