

Nuclear Medicine – Gastric Emptying

To Schedule: (319) 861-7778

Questions about your procedure: (319) 398-6050



701 10th Street SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403-1292
319 398-6011

What is a Nuclear Medicine?

Nuclear medicine uses radioactive materials to help diagnose and treat a wide variety of diseases and disorders. It provides unique information about the human body and its health. Nuclear medicine helps physicians diagnose disease earlier to make treatment more effective. It's the best early warning system for certain kinds of heart disease, thyroid disease, tumors, bone changes, etc.

A Gastric Emptying scan is used to determine the amount of time the stomach takes to empty its contents after eating.

Preparation:

- Do not eat or drink for 4 hours prior to your scheduled exam.
- Diabetic patients should have their diabetes under good control with blood glucose readings less than 200 mg/dl.
- Some medications can interfere with this study and should not be taken for 48 hours (2 days) prior to the exam. These include: Metoclopramide (Reglan), Tegaserod (Zelnorm), Cisapride (Prepulsid), Bethanechol (Urecholine), Ondansetron (Zofran), erythromycin, muscle relaxers, and opiates. Consult your provider before stopping any medications.
- If you have an allergy to eggs, inform your ordering provider because the exam could be performed another way. However, this information is needed when the exam is scheduled.
- When your exam is scheduled, be sure you have not had oral contrast from an imaging procedure (X-Ray, CT, etc.) 24 hours prior to your Nuclear Medicine exam.

Procedure:

Upon arrival for your Nuclear Medicine exam, you will be given 4 oz. of Egg Beaters® mixed with a small amount of radioactive material, 2 slices of toast, jelly, and a small amount of water that you will need to consume within 10-15 minutes. A series of pictures will follow the ingestion of the eggs. Images will be done at various intervals. You will be required to stand for two images, one from the front, the other from the back. Each image lasts 1 minute. Depending on your speed of emptying, imaging will be completed in 2 to 4 hours. You will not be allowed to eat or drink additional food and beverages until the exam is complete.

PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR APPOINTMENT:

A PHOTO ID TO VERIFY YOUR IDENTITY

A LIST OF CURRENT MEDICATIONS YOU ARE TAKING

Parking:

Park in the Mercy Medical Center 10th Street Parking Ramp, located at the corner of 10th Street and 8th Ave. SE. Proceed to **Ground (G)** level and follow the signs to “Radiology (X-Ray),” also located on **Ground (G)** level.

Procedure Results:

A radiologist will review the images shortly after the exam is completed. A written report will be sent to the provider who ordered your exam. Your provider will discuss the results with you. Results will typically be available for your provider within two business days of the exam. Results will also be sent to your MyChart account.