

# GASTRIC EMPTYING STUDY

## **Information for our Nuclear Medicine Patients:**

Inform your physician if you are pregnant or breast feeding.

## **What is Nuclear Medicine?**

Nuclear Medicine is a medical specialty which uses safe, painless and cost-effective techniques both to image the body and treat disease. Nuclear Medicine imaging is unique in that it documents organ function and structure in contrast to diagnostic radiology which is based on anatomy. Nuclear Medicine allows your physician to gather medical information which may otherwise be unavailable.

Nuclear Medicine uses very small amounts of radioactive materials, or radio-pharmaceuticals, to diagnose and treat disease. Radiopharmaceuticals are substances that are attracted to specific organs, bones or tissues. The radiopharmaceuticals used in Nuclear Medicine emit gamma rays which can be detected externally by special types of cameras called gamma cameras. These cameras work in conjunction with computers, and are used to create images which provide data and information about the area of the body being imaged.

## **Gastric Emptying Study:**

You have been scheduled for a Gastric Emptying Study which involves the use of a small amount of radioactive material. The level of radioactivity used is extremely low and has no side effects.

You will be positioned next to a special detector called a gamma camera. The camera does not produce any radiation. It will be placed close to the part of your body being imaged.

## **Patient Preparation:**

Nothing by mouth for a minimum of 6 hours prior to scheduled exam time.

## **Procedure:**

You will be asked to consume a solid meal with medication mixed into the meal. Painless images will be obtained for approximately 2 (two) hours.

## **Appointment Information:**

**If you are unable to keep this appointment, please contact the Nuclear Medicine Department at 618-847-8221 or the Radiology Department at 618-847-8249, at least 24 hours in advance of your appointment.**

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Appointment Date: \_\_\_\_\_ & Time: \_\_\_\_\_

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