

Nuclear Medicine Patient Information

Liquid Gastric Emptying

Welcome to VCU Health Nuclear Medicine. We are located in the Gateway Building, 2nd floor, 1200 East Marshall Street. Our hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7 am to 5 pm. Advanced scheduling is required for all nuclear medicine exams. Please review the following information about your test. Please call (804) 828-6828 to schedule your test or if you have any questions about your nuclear medicine exam.

What is it?

A test to measure the time it takes for a liquid meal to empty from the stomach and enter the small intestine.

Why are you having this test?

This test is often used to evaluate conditions and disorders of the stomach. This may include:

- Nausea and Vomiting
- Stomach Pain and Bloating
- Gastroparesis
- Reflux
- Diarrhea and/or Constipation

Preparing for the test

- DO NOT eat or drink anything 4 hours prior to your test, this includes tube feedings.
- Your Physician will instruct you regarding the use of medications before the test.

NOTE: Patients with diabetes should ask for specific diet/medication guidelines to control glucose during the day of your test.

- Bring a picture ID and insurance information.
- Bring with you a current list of medications (including Over the Counter, Herbal, Vitamins, Supplements, etc.) and current allergies.
- Please arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment.

What to expect during the test

- The test will take 1 – 2 hours.
- You will be asked to drink a standardized meal that has a radioactive tracer. This meal consists of an 8 oz. nutritional drink. For pediatric patients requiring formula, please bring the formula with you.

NOTE: If you have any dietary restrictions or food allergies. Please contact the Nuclear Medicine Department at (804) 828-6828.

- You will lie down while the camera takes pictures of your stomach for 60 – 90 minutes.
- The images will be checked for quality by our Physician and more pictures may be needed.

After Care Information

- You may return to all your normal activities.
- Most of the radioactive tracer leaves your body through your urine. Drinking extra fluids may help the tracer leave your body faster.

Contact information if questions or concerns

- Any Questions: Please contact us at (804) 828-6828 and ask to speak to a Nuclear Medicine Technologist. After hours, please call (804) 828-3699.

Follow-Up Care after the procedure

- Results will be available in 1-2 business days.
- For Results: Please contact the Physician that ordered your test.