



Pullman Regional Hospital Nuclear Medicine Department

What is a Gastric Emptying Study?

This is a scan of the stomach to see how it digests solid and/or liquid food. It is usually done on patients who suffer from rapid weight loss, gastric pain, feeling of fullness, nausea, vomiting or are unable to get the proper nutrients from the food they are eating.

Before your study

Please **do not** eat anything for at least **4** hours prior to coming for the study.

If this study is being done on a small child, please bring a bottle of the formula or breast milk that you are feeding the baby.

During your study

Once you are registered and checked in at the Outpatient Services desk, a technologist will come out to greet you and bring you into the department. The technologist will explain your test and answer any questions you might have.

You will be given an egg salad sandwich that the technologist will have mixed with a very small amount of imaging tracer. This will not alter the taste of the food and does not cause any side effects.

You will be given a maximum of 10 minutes to eat and/or drink. The technologist will then have you lie on our imaging bed. Once in position, the technologist will start a 90-minute scan of your stomach. It is very important to stay completely still. Small children are gently snuggled into a papoose for the scan.

After a full-90 minutes, the scan is complete.

After your study

You can resume your regular activities with no restrictions. The technologist will not be able to give you any results; however, the results should be available to the doctor who ordered your test within one to two business days.

Thank you

We are honored that you have chosen Pullman Regional Hospital to serve your healthcare needs.