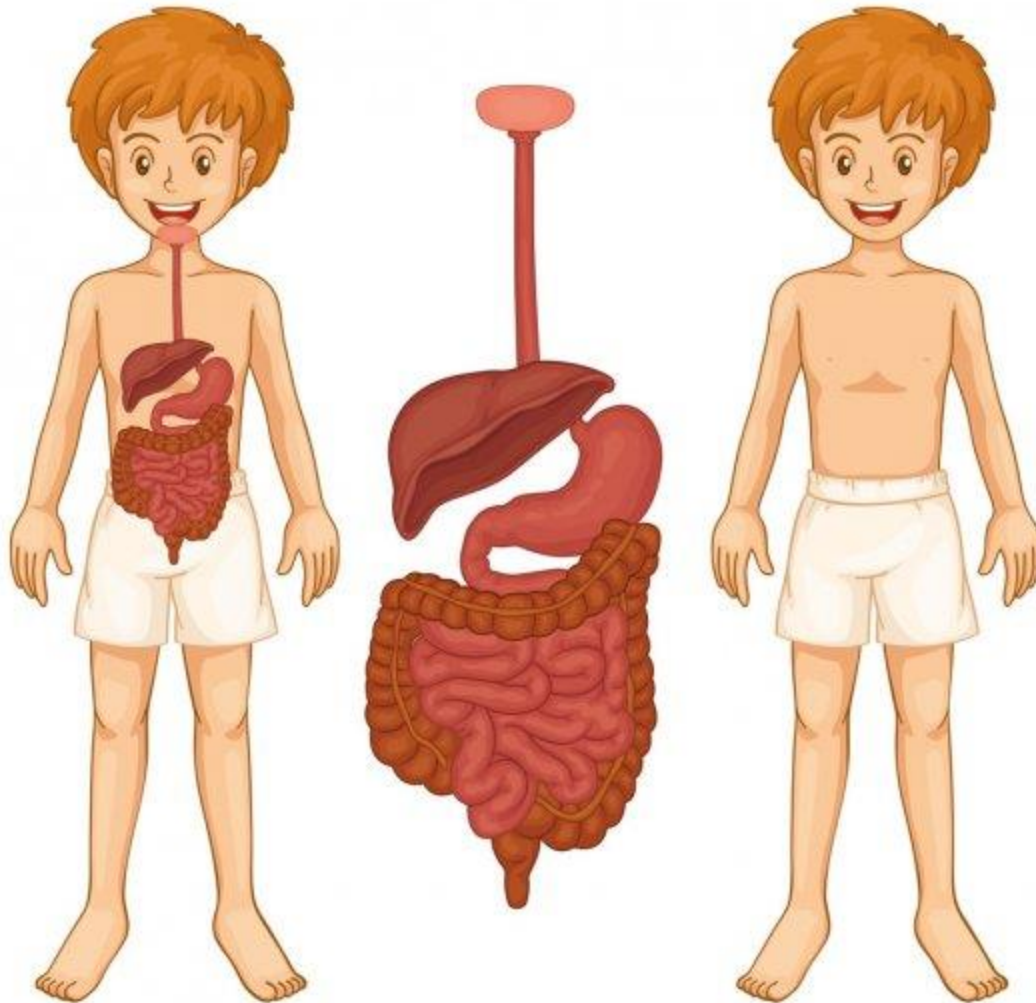


Getting a Gastric  
Emptying (Solid) Nuclear  
Medicine Scan  
Photo Preparation Book

A Gastric Emptying scan is a funny way of saying that we need pictures of how food moves through your body or is digested.

# Digestive System





This is the Radiology Waiting Room. There are a lot of fun things to do in this room while you wait!

The people in this room are waiting for pictures called X-rays, Ultrasounds, CT scans, or Gastric emptying scans (just like you!)



Next, you will go to one of the registration desks. The patient services representative will let the technologists know that you are here.



You will also get a special bracelet that tells everyone who you are. Then you will go back to the waiting room.





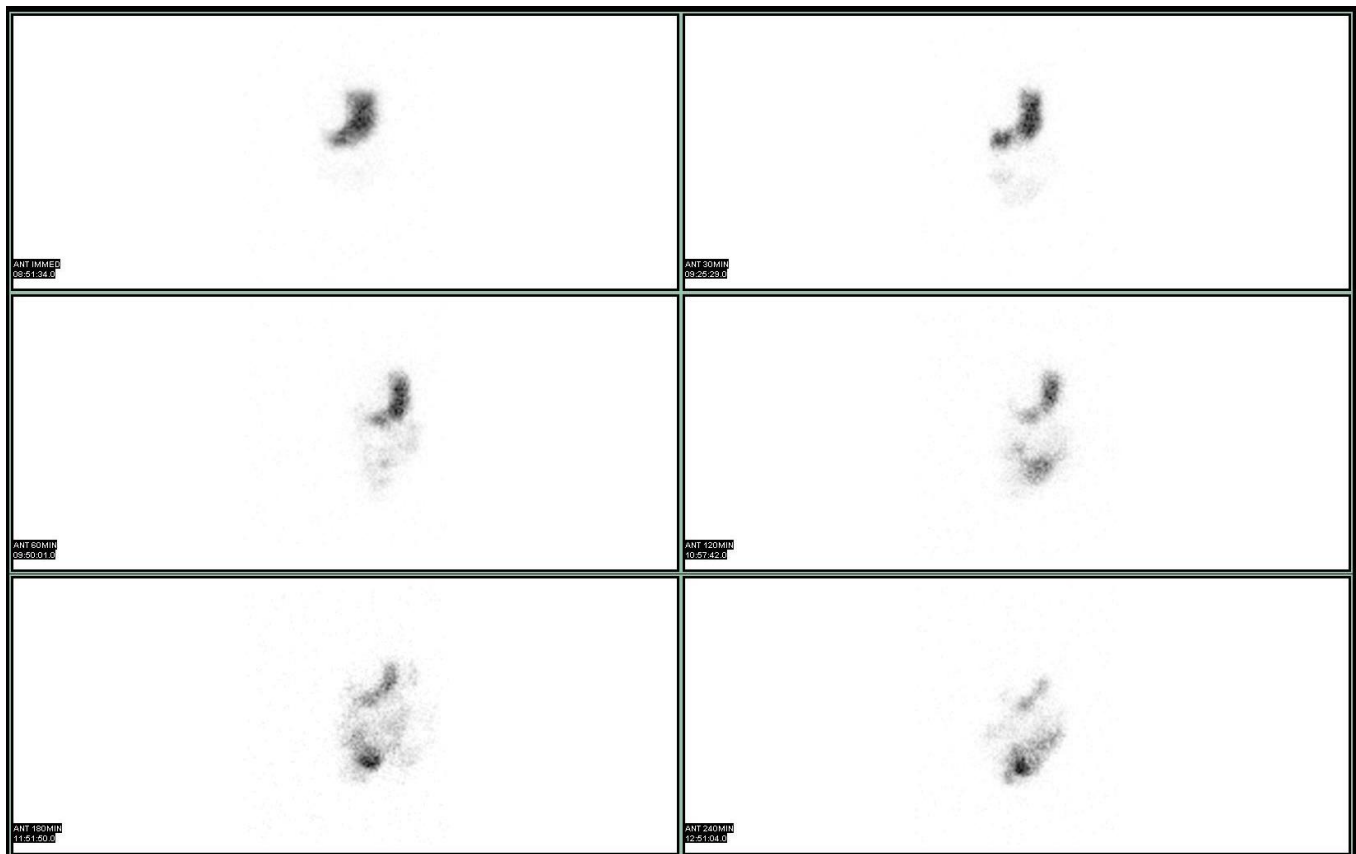
Next, a nuclear medicine technologist will walk you from the waiting room to a room like this.

A technologist is the person who will take your pictures!

In this room, you will eat oatmeal or eggs. Your most important job is to eat as much as you can!

A special liquid called a radioactive isotope is mixed into the oatmeal or eggs that you will eat. You will not taste or see it. The isotope helps the camera to see the inside of you body when it takes your pictures.

Can you see the isotope in this picture?





A Gastric Emptying scan uses a special camera called a GAMMA CAMERA that takes pictures of the inside of your body.

The camera does not make any noise and does not touch you.





You will either lie on the bed or stand in front of the camera for your pictures.

The technologist will give you a seatbelt to help remind you to stay still for the pictures.

**Remember:** the camera never touches you!



After you eat, you will have two pictures taken and then get a break.

It will take 4 hours to complete all your pictures, but you will get breaks in between!

A technologist will take 5 pictures of you throughout this time. The pictures will be taken after 30 minutes and then every hour for the next 4 hours.



Your most important job while your pictures are being taken is to **stay very still!**

You can watch a movie or listen to music on the iPad to help you stay still.

The grown up you brought with you can sit next to you the whole time.

# Additional Support

If your child has any special needs or health issues you feel the doctor needs to know about, please call the Department of Pediatric Radiology at Children's to speak with a technologist or Child Life Specialist before the test. (412) 692-5512.

It is important to notify us in advance about any special needs.

Preparing your child beforehand, as well as comforting your child during the test, will help your child have a more positive experience.

Sometimes it is difficult to know how to explain tests to children. These preparation books have been created to help you and your child feel as prepared as possible.

If you feel that your child will have difficulty during the test or needs a more developmentally appropriate explanation prior to their visit, please call the Department of Pediatric Radiology's Child Life Specialist (412) 692- 9532.