COLON TRANSIT SCAN.

WHAT IS A COLON TRANSIT SCAN AND WHY AM I HAVING IT?
A Colon Transit scan is a test to examine if there is a problem with the movement of food through the bowel (colon). It examines how long it takes for a meal to move through the colon. A Colon Transit scan provides functional information that other tests may be unable to provide.

HOW IS THE COLON TRANSIT SCAN DONE?
A Colon Transit scan usually takes 5 days to complete, in stages:
Day 1:
• In the morning, you will be asked to drink a glass of water containing a small amount of a radioactive tracer. This does not alter the taste of the water, and has no side effects on you.
• You will be allowed to leave the department, and asked to return in the afternoon for a 10 minute scan of the abdomen. During the scan you will need to lie very still on a scanning table, and during this time you may breathe normally.

Days 2-5:
• You will have a 10 minute scan of the abdomen every morning from day 2 to day 5.
• During the scan you will need to lie very still on a scanning table, and during this time you may breathe normally.

ARE THERE ANY SIDE EFFECTS?
There is no discomfort associated with the test. The radioactive tracer in the water has no side effects on you, and does not change the taste of the water. There is a small dose of radiation from the radioactive tracer, similar to the dose of radiation you would receive from a chest X-ray. As the radioactive tracer will not make you feel different, you may drive after the scan if you wish.

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR MY SCAN?
Fast for 6 hours prior to your appointment on the first day. After you have drunk the water, you may eat and drink normally throughout the entire test.

SHOULD I TAKE MY NORMAL MEDICATIONS?
Yes, you should take your usual medications. DO NOT take laxative medication for the duration of the scan, as this will affect the accuracy of the scan.

CAN I EAT AND DRINK ON THE DAY OF MY TEST?
No: see ‘How Do I Prepare For My Scan’.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING FOR MY SCAN?
Please bring you referral letter, your past Colon Transit scans, X-rays, CT scans, MRI and Ultrasounds and your Medicare Card.

WHAT IF I AM PREGNANT?
Usually, the test is not performed on pregnant or breast-feeding women. If you are pregnant, think you might be or are unsure please notify the staff prior to the start of the test.

CAN I TAKE THE RESULTS WITH ME?
Normally the results are prepared after you have left the Department and are posted to your doctor within 24 hours (they should arrive within a few days). If the results are required for an appointment before this time, please notify staff and a result may be able to be given to you 45 – 60 minutes after the test is complete.

WHERE DO I GO FOR MY SCAN?
Department of Nuclear Medicine & PET, Liverpool Hospital
Ground floor, New Clinical Building (Entrance J), Building No 021
Corner of Hart & Lachlan Streets, Liverpool, NSW-2171
An example of a Colon Transit study