GASTRIC EMPTYING SCAN.

WHAT IS A GASTRIC EMPTYING SCAN AND WHY AM I HAVING IT?
A Gastric Emptying scan is a test to examine if there is a problem with the movement of food through the stomach and examines how long it takes for a meal to move through the stomach. A Gastric Emptying scan provides functional information that other tests may be unable to provide.

HOW IS THE GASTRIC EMPTYING SCAN DONE?
You will be asked to eat scrambled eggs in which a very small amount of a radioactive tracer has been mixed. This is not harmful to you and will not make the eggs taste different. The scrambled eggs will be sandwiched between 2 slices of bread. After you have eaten the scrambled egg sandwich, you will be asked to lie down on a scanning table for 2 hours, and pictures of your stomach will be taken using a special camera. During the scan, you must lie very still and breathe normally.

ARE THERE ANY SIDE EFFECTS?
There is no discomfort associated with the test. The radioactive tracer in the eggs has no side effects on you, and does not change the taste of the eggs. 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?
For diabetic patients:
- If you take oral diabetic medication, you fast overnight and do not have breakfast. You do not take your oral diabetic medication, but bring them with you for the test.
- If you take insulin, have your normal breakfast with the insulin. Bring your insulin with you also.
For non-diabetic patients:
- Fast for 6 hours prior to the test.

SHOULD I TAKE MY NORMAL MEDICATIONS?
Yes, you should take your usual medications. If you are taking stomach medications, you should ask your doctor whether you are to take them on the day before and on the day of the test.

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 your referral letter, your past Gastric Emptying scans, X-rays, CT scans, MRI, 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 1 hour after the test is completed.

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 Gastric Emptying Scan