

Having an oesophageal emptying study as an outpatient

This scan is performed to evaluate oesophageal emptying and reflux (how long it takes for your gullet to process food and whether it comes back up) in patients and to see if there is any hold up with the passage of food into the stomach.

Is it safe for me to have the scan?

You will be fed some cornflakes made with a small quantity of radiotracer in the milk, in order to take the pictures. There is a very small risk from this radiation dose but this is outweighed by the valuable information that will be gained by having the scan. Ask if you want any more information. All investigations are vetted to make sure this is the appropriate test for you. If you don't understand why you need to have this scan please speak to the doctor who referred you.

For female patients

If you know that you are pregnant, or there is any chance that you may be pregnant, then please contact the department where you will be having the scan. Do this as soon as possible as the scan can be postponed if it is not urgent. Also contact the department if you are breastfeeding, as we may give you special instructions.

Preparation for your scan

You must have nothing to eat from midnight but you may have a cup of tea/coffee at breakfast.

Your scan

You will be fed a meal of radioactive cornflakes/milk whilst sitting in front of a camera and pictures will be taken over the following 45 minutes approximately. You will not need to get undressed for this test.



After your scan

It is very unlikely that you will feel any side-effects after the scan, but if you think that you have please let the Medical Physics Department know.

You may continue all your normal activities unless you have been advised otherwise. After your scan there will be some radioactivity left in your body but this will not present a significant risk to other people around you. The radioactivity in your body will soon disappear, but if you continue to drink plenty of liquids this will help clear the radioactivity more quickly.

Your results

Your oesophageal emptying scan will be looked at by a specialist doctor, who will issue a report. The report will be sent to the doctor who requested your scan rather than to your GP. This is because the doctor who requested your scan will have all the results from other tests and will be able to tell you how the result of your bone scan affects your care.

If you have any questions about your treatment, please ask the staff looking after you or telephone 0118 322 7355 (fax: 0118 322 7377)

or email : PhysicsDepartment@royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Medical Physics Department, Level 1 North Block

Reception: Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 5.00pm

For more information about the Trust, visit our website www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

This information can be made available in other languages and formats upon request

Physics & Clinical Engineering Department, November 2017. Review due November 2018