

Nuclear Medicine – Gastrointestinal Tests

Nuclear Medicine

- This is the specialized use of radioactive material to diagnose many diseases and conditions in the body.

Special Considerations and Precautions

Tell your Doctor and the Nuclear Medicine Staff:

- If there is any chance you could be pregnant.
- If you are breastfeeding, you may be asked to discontinue and bottle-feed your baby for a period of time after the test. Contact the location where you are having this test, one day before your appointment.

You have an appointment on _____ at _____ am / pm

There may be a delay if someone needs an emergency examination

Please bring your Health Care Card and arrive 30 minutes before your appointment time.

Foothills Medical Centre
1403-29 St. NW
(403) 944-1348
Go to Information Desk

Peter Lougheed Centre
3500-26 Ave. NE
(403) 943-4570
Go to Admitting

Rockyview General Hospital
7007 - 14th Street SW
(403) 943-3415
Go to Admitting

Alberta Children's Hospital
1820 Richmond Road SW
(403) 943-7987
Go to Admitting

If You Cannot Keep Your Appointment

Please call to re-schedule with the location where you are to have your test.

Your test is highlighted below.

Gastrointestinal Tests

This information is of a general nature and may not apply to your circumstances. All times are approximate.

Test	Examination of:	Before Examination	Explanation of Exam	Length of Test	Care After Exam
Biliary (HIDA)	Gallbladder and bile duct	Nothing to eat or drink for 4 hrs before the test. No pain medicine (codeine, Demerol or morphine) for 4 hrs before test.	Imaging begins right after the injection and continues for 1–2 hrs.	Total 1–2 hrs.	None.
Gastric Emptying	Stomach	Nothing to eat or drink for 4 hrs before the test.	Imaging begins after you eat an egg sandwich or swallow a drink and continues for 2 hrs.	Total 2 hrs.	None.
Gastro-intestinal Bleed Localization	Stomach and bowel	No preparation.	A blood sample will be drawn. 45 minutes later your blood will be re-injected. Images will begin right away and may take 3 hours.	Total 3 hrs (possibly longer).	None.
Meckel's Scan	Bowel	Nothing to eat or drink for 4 hrs before the test.	Imaging begins right away and continues for 1 hour.	Total 1 hr. (possibly longer).	None.
Schilling's Test	Bowel B ₁₂ absorption	Nothing to eat or drink for 4 hrs before the test. No B ₁₂ for 3–7 days before test. No Nuclear Medicine tests for 1 week before the test. Your doctor will order a B ₁₂ blood test before the test.	You will swallow a capsule and receive injections 2 hrs later. You will not be able to eat or drink anything between the capsule and the injections.	30 min. at time of capsule. It will take 15 min. for injection to work. Total 2 hrs. 15 min.	You will collect urine for 24 hrs at home and bring it to Nuclear Medicine the next day.
¹⁴C Breath Analysis	Stomach/ bowel ulcers	Nothing to eat or drink for 4 hrs before the test. No antibiotics for 30 days before test. No anti-ulcer or gastric reflux drugs for 7 days before test. No antacids for 24 hrs before test.	After swallowing a capsule you will wait 20 minutes, then blow into a tube.	Total 30 min.	None.

If you require medical attention, please contact your doctor or go to the nearest hospital emergency department.

- If you have any questions not answered above, please ask your doctor or the Nuclear Medicine Staff.