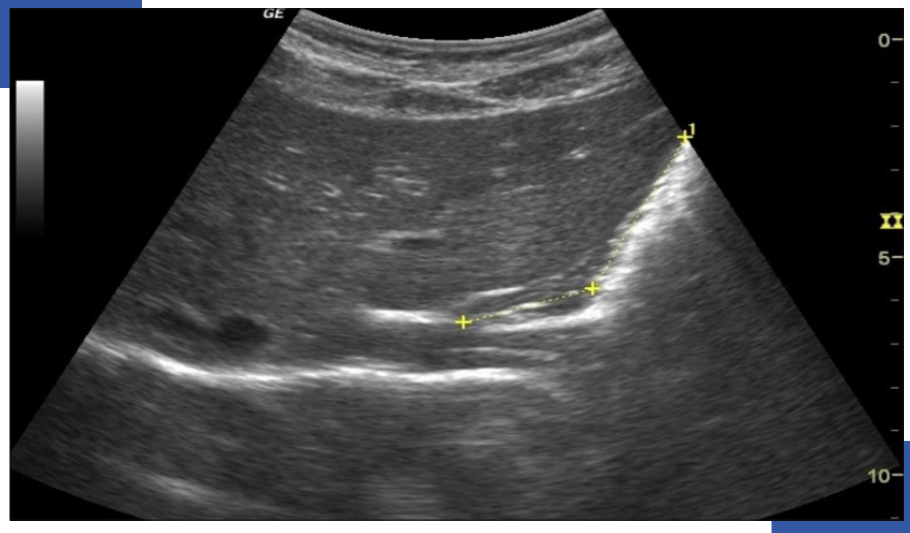




Understanding Gastroesophageal Reflux (GE Reflux) Scan

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What is a Gastroesophageal Reflux (GE Reflux) Scan?

Gastroesophageal Reflux (GE Reflux) Scan is a nuclear medicine study to evaluate reflux of stomach contents into the oesophagus (food pipe). A small dose of radioactive material is given to the patient, and the radioactive material is tracked by a gamma camera over time, which helps the healthcare team determine the amount and movement of GER.

Why is it Performed?

The GE Reflux Scan is done for gastroesophageal reflux, which is associated with feeding problems, upper gastrointestinal discomfort, frequent vomiting, and regurgitation. This scan checks whether reflux flows back up into the oesophagus from the stomach. Results are analyzed in conjunction with symptoms, medical history, physical exam, and other related tests of the patient.

Preparation

- Follow instructions regarding food, fluids, and medicines before the scan.
- Inform the medical team about current medicines, allergies, relevant medical conditions and if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.
- Bring previous gastrointestinal reports and relevant medical records.

Procedure

The patient is given food or a fluid containing a small amount of radioactive material. Then, the patient is placed in a comfortable position, and a gamma camera records the movement of the tracer. Images are taken at a certain time to see if the stomach contents are returned to the oesophagus. The patient should stay still during imaging to obtain a clear and accurate image.

Important Instructions

- Take medicines only as directed by your doctor.
- Inform the team about pregnancy or breastfeeding.
- Tell the medical team about any relevant gastrointestinal condition or previous surgery.
- Remain still and relaxed during imaging.
- Inform staff if you feel uncomfortable during the examination.
- Follow instructions regarding food and fluid intake after the scan.
- Follow all post-scan instructions provided by the nuclear medicine team.

Safety Precautions

GE Reflux Scan employs a radioactive scan delivered at a low level, under the supervision of a trained medical professional. We employ all safety precautions to minimise radiation, and patients arriving for examination must notify the medical staff of any condition such as allergy or medication before the examination. Follow any specific post-scanning precautions as applicable to the scan that has been performed.

When to Seek Medical Attention?

Seek medical help if the patient experiences severe or persistent vomiting, difficulty swallowing, vomiting blood, severe chest or abdominal pain, breathing difficulty, or other sudden concerning symptoms. Follow a healthcare professional's advice regarding further evaluation and treatment. At Molecular Diagnostics and Therapy, the Gastroesophageal Reflux (GE Reflux) Scan is performed under trained specialist supervision using appropriate nuclear medicine protocols, with attention to accurate assessment, patient safety, and comfort.