

Colonic transit study

What is nuclear medicine?

Nuclear medicine is an imaging modality which uses radioactive tracers to image physiological processes in the body. This allows for functional assessment and imaging of a wide range of systems and organs.

What is a colonic transit study?

The colon (large bowel) is the portion of the bowl that connects the small bowel to the anus. The colonic transit study is a test used to investigate the function of the colon, and is most commonly used to assess the severity of constipation.

The colonic transit study takes five days to complete.

What preparation is required?

You must fast (nothing to eat or drink) for eight hours prior to your first appointment. All laxatives or medicines that affect the colon should be stopped for three days before the study, and for the whole week of the study.

What is involved?

The test starts on a Monday and finishes on Friday. On Monday you will have two appointments, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. In the morning you will drink a small amount of a meal replacement drink containing a very small amount of a radioactive tracer. You will need to come back at a set time every day for some images until the test is finished. The test usually finishes on Friday.

Are there any side effects?

The drink contains a very small amount of a radioactive tracer. You will not feel any side effects from the tracer.

How long will this take?

Each of the appointments for the colonic transit study will take about 15 minutes, and are usually performed early morning. The test takes five days to complete.

How do I get my results?

Digital images are immediately available to your doctor and your records will be kept permanently. This occurs through a system called PACS. **A report is available within 24 hours.**

If your referring doctor wants to see you on the day of your examination, please advise the reception staff when you arrive for your appointment, so the appropriate information can be made available to your doctor.

How much will this cost?

Please ask reception staff of the cost involved at the time of booking your appointment.

Important

It is important to let us know when you make your booking if you are or think you may be pregnant or are breastfeeding.

It is important to bring with you your referral, previous x-rays and any other tests (only if previous ones were **not** done at Cabrini or I-MED).

Questions

For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Cabrini Medical Imaging using the number below.