

NIH Clinical Center Patient Education Materials

Gastric Analysis

You are scheduled for gastric analysis. This test measures how much acid your stomach makes. For this test, the contents of your stomach will be collected through a tube inserted through your nose called a nasogastric tube.

Preparation

- Do not eat or drink after midnight on the day of the test, until the test is over.
- Your doctor will decide which medications you should stop taking before the test.
- For your comfort during the test, empty your bladder beforehand.
- Tell your doctor if you have a deviated septum or have ever broken your nose.

Procedure

- The test will be done in your room or in the endoscopy suite.
- A small tube will be inserted through your nose into your stomach. To help with this process, you will be asked to take small sips of water. You may feel pressure at the back of your nose for about 5 minutes.
- You will be asked to lie on your back or on your left side.
- A nurse will collect the contents of your stomach through the tube and place it in a container.
- You may be given medications during the test by injection. You may also have an I.V. (intravenous) line inserted. Blood samples may also be taken.
- The procedure usually starts early in the morning and lasts two hours or longer, depending on the type of test your doctor ordered.

After the procedure

- After the test, the nasogastric tube will be removed.
- If you have questions about the procedure, your nurse and doctor will gladly answer your questions and are ready to assist you at all times.

Special instructions:

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