



Patient Information  
Tests and Procedures

Nuclear Medicine: Nuclear Cardiology:

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*Table of Contents*

Acute MI Imaging

Bone Scan

Captopril Renal Scan

Cisternogram

CNS Shunt Patency

Gallium Scan

Gastric Emptying Scan

Gastric Leak

Gastrointestinal Bleeding Scan

HIDA Scan (w or w/o CCK)

Lasix Renal Scan

Leveen Shunt

Liver & Spleen Scan

Lung Scan

Lymphoscintigraphy

Meckels Scan

Thyroid Iodine-123 Scan

Thyroid Iodine-131 Whole Body Scan

Iodine-131 MIBG Scan

Milk Scan

MUGA Scan

Oncoscint

Octreoscan

Parathyroid Scan

Renal Scan

Sentinel Node Localization

Stress Test

Testicular Scan

Tagged WBC Imaging (Indium / Ceretec)

## **Acute MI Imaging**

### **What is the test?**

- An MI procedure is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to determine if a heart attack has occurred.

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- There is no preparation needed for this test. The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.

### **What happens when the test is performed?**

- A small amount of a radioactive tracer material is injected into a vein in the arm. Two hours after the injection, three pictures are taken of the heart with a special camera. The procedure lasts thirty minutes.
- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. You will not be enclosed like an MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine test.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hrs.

**If there is anything we can do to make you more comfortable while in the Nuclear Medicine Department, please do not hesitate to ask.**

## **Bone Scan**

### **What is the test?**

- A bone scan is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to determine if there is a fracture too small for X-rays to see. It is also used to diagnose arthritis, degenerative joint disease, or cancer if it is in the bone.

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- There is no preparation needed for this test, however, in between your injection and your pictures, it is important to drink extra fluids and empty your bladder often.

### **What happens when the test is performed?**

- This exam has two parts. The first part is an injection of a radioactive tracer into a vein in your arm. There are no side effects to this tracer. After the injection, you will return approximately three hours later, and, with a special camera, pictures will be taken. The pictures take about 30 minutes.
- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. You will not be enclosed like an MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine test.
- Additional images may be requested by the radiologist / technologist.
- X-rays may be needed to correlate with the bone scan images.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hrs.

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# Captopril Renal Scan

## What is the test?

- A Captopril Renal Scan is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to determine the function of the kidneys or how medication is affecting the kidneys.

## How do I prepare for the test?

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- You must be off certain blood pressure medications for 48 hours. These medications are ACE inhibitors.

## What happens when the test is performed?

- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. You will not be enclosed like a MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine test.
- This is a two day procedure. On the first day you will receive a regular renal scan. During this procedure you will be injected in a vein in your arm and pictures will be taken immediately. They last 40 minutes.
- On the second day, you will swallow a pill called Captopril. This pill lowers the blood pressure. Your blood pressure will then be monitored every 15 minutes for 1 hour. Then, a regular renal scan will be done again. Those images should take 40 minutes.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

## How long is it before the result of the test is known?

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hours after the procedure is complete.

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# **Cisternogram**

## **What is the test?**

- A Cisternogram is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to determine if there is a leak in the fluid that surrounds the brain. It can also be done to check the pressure of the same fluid.

## **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- There is no preparation needed for this test.
- After the test, you should remain on your back for 24 hours.

## **What happens when the test is performed?**

- There is an injection of a radioactive tracer material between the bones in the back. This injection is performed by a radiologist using an x-ray machine for guidance.
- A special camera will take pictures immediately after the injection, and again at four hours, twenty-four hours and forty-eight hours later. The pictures last about thirty minutes.
- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. You will not be enclosed like an MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine test.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

## **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hours after the procedure is completed.

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## **CNS Shunt Patency**

### **What is the test?**

- A CNS patency test is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to determine if the shunt in the head is draining properly.

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- There is no preparation needed for this test.

### **What happens when the test is performed?**

- An injection of a radioactive tracer material is given into the shunt reservoir in the head. Then, a special camera will take pictures of the head, chest, and abdomen for up 30 minutes. Additional pictures may be needed at 1 - 4 hours.
- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. You will not be enclosed like an MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine test.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hours after the procedure is completed.

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## **Gallium Scan**

### **What is the test?**

- A gallium scan is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to determine, and/ or locate an infection, tumor, or abscess.

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- There is no preparation needed for this test.

### **What happens when the test is performed?**

- A small amount of a radioactive tracer gallium is injected into a vein in the arm. You will be given a return time for pictures by the technologist.
- Upon your return, a special camera will take pictures of the whole body, or the area specified by your doctor. Additional pictures will be taken at 48, 72, or 96 hours, depending on the diagnosis.
- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. You will not be enclosed like an MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine test.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hrs.

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# **Gastric Emptying Scan**

## **What is the test?**

- A gastric emptying scan is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to determine how the stomach empties.

## **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- You may not eat or drink anything after midnight
- If you have any allergies to eggs, please let your nurse know immediately.

## **What happens when the test is performed?**

- A small amount of a radioactive tracer material is mixed with scrambled eggs. If you have an allergy to eggs, please have your nurse notify nuclear medicine so that a substitute food product may be found. Once the scrambled eggs are eaten, a special camera will take pictures of your stomach.
- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. You will not be enclosed like an MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine test.
- This procedure takes approximately two hours.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

## **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hrs.

**If there is anything we can do to make you more comfortable while in the Nuclear Medicine Department, please do not hesitate to ask.**

## **Gastric Leak Scan**

### **What is the test?**

- A gastric leak scan is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to determine if the site of gastric bypass is leaking.

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- You may not eat or drink anything after midnight.

### **What happens when the test is performed?**

- A small amount of a radioactive tracer material is mixed with 2 - 4 ounces of water. Once the drink is swallowed, a special camera will take pictures of your stomach.
- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. You will not be enclosed like an MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine test.
- This procedure takes approximately two hours. Additional pictures may be necessary at 4 – 24 hours as directed by a radiologist.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hrs.

**If there is anything we can do to make you more comfortable while in the Nuclear Medicine Department, please do not hesitate to ask.**

## **Gastrointestinal Bleeding Scan**

### **What is the test?**

- A GI Bleeding scan is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure to evaluate and locate the area of bleeding in the intestine.

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- There is no preparation for this procedure.

### **What happens when the test is performed?**

- A small amount of blood will be drawn, tagged to a radioactive tracer material, and re-injected into a vein in the arm. This process will take 20-30 minutes.
- Once this is done, a special camera will take pictures of the tagged blood to locate the area of the bleed.
- This procedure takes 1½ hours. Delayed pictures may also need to be taken.
- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. You will not be enclosed like an MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine test.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hrs.

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## **HIDA Scan**

### **What is the test?**

- A HIDA or Hepatobiliary scan is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to determine the function of the gallbladder.

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- You may not eat or drink anything after midnight prior to the exam or at least a minimum of 4 hours.
- No pain medication such as Demerol, Visceral, or Morphine, may be taken 4 - 6 hours prior to the procedure.

### **What happens when the test is performed?**

- A radioactive tracer material is injected into a vein in the arm. A special camera is used to take pictures of the abdomen. The liver, gallbladder, and a portion of intestine need to be seen for the test to be complete. This test can take from one to four hours.
- In some cases, a medication known as CCK can be injected to empty out the gallbladder. If CCK is used, the test will take two hours. IV access will be needed for the injections.
- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. You will not be enclosed like an MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine test.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hrs.

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## **Lasix Renal Scan**

### **What is the test?**

- A Lasix Renal Scan is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to determine the function of the kidneys and how medication affects them.

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- There is no preparation for this procedure.

### **What happens when the test is performed?**

- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table. The imaging camera will be under the bed to take pictures of your kidneys. You will be injected in a vein in your arm and pictures will be taken immediately.
- Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. The total time of the procedure will be 50 minutes.
- After 20 minutes of pictures, a medication called Lasix will be injected through your IV line after the regular renal scan is performed.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hours after the procedure is complete.

**If there is anything we can do to make you more comfortable while in the Nuclear Medicine Department, please do not hesitate to ask.**

## **Leveen Shunt**

### **What is the test?**

- A Leveen shunt scan is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to determine if the tube in the abdomen is working.

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- There is no preparation for this procedure.

### **What happens when the test is performed?**

- A doctor will give an injection of a radioactive tracer material into the abdomen. After the injection, a special camera will take pictures of the chest and abdomen every ten to fifteen minutes, for one hour.
- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. You will not be enclosed like an MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine test.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hrs.

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## **Liver/Spleen Scan**

### **What is the test?**

- A liver/spleen scan is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to evaluate the size, shape and position of the liver and spleen and to evaluate or confirm disease.

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- No other prep is needed.

### **What happens when the test is performed?**

- A radioactive tracer material is injected into a vein in the arm. A special camera is used to take pictures of the abdomen 10 -20 minutes after the injection. This test can take 30 - 45 minutes from injection.
- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. You will not be enclosed like an MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine test.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hrs.

**If there is anything we can do to make you more comfortable while in the Nuclear Medicine Department, please do not hesitate to ask.**

## **Lung Scan**

### **What is the test?**

- A lung or V/Q scan is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to determine if there is a blood clot in the lung.

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- There is no preparation for this procedure.
- A recent (24 hours) Chest X-ray is necessary for comparison.

### **What happens when the test is performed?**

- This exam consists of two parts. The first part is the airflow phase. A radioactive gas is inhaled through a mask that is placed over your mouth and nose. There is oxygen hooked through the unit that holds the gas. A special camera will take pictures of the air flow that is inhaled into the lungs. These pictures take 5 minutes.
- The second phase is the blood flow phase. A radioactive material is injected through a vein while you are lying down. The same pictures are then repeated. Imaging will take about 20 minutes.
- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. You will not be enclosed like an MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine test.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hrs.

**If there is anything we can do to make you more comfortable while in the Nuclear Medicine Department, please do not hesitate to ask.**

# **Lymphoscintigraphy**

## **What is the test?**

- A Lymphoscintogram is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to determine if the lymph nodes are involved in skin cancer, or if those nodes are draining after a skin cancer has been removed.

## **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- There is no preparation for this procedure.

## **What happens when the test is performed?**

- A small amount of a radioactive tracer material is injected around the site of the skin cancer. A special camera will then take pictures of the injected material. The entire procedure takes 2 to 3 hours.
- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. You will not be enclosed like an MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine test.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

## **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hrs.

**If there is anything we can do to make you more comfortable while in the Nuclear Medicine Department, please do not hesitate to ask.**

## **Meckels Scan**

### **What is the test?**

- A Meckels scan is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure to locate stomach tissue in the intestine.

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- There is no preparation for this procedure.

### **What happens when the test is performed?**

- A small amount of a radioactive tracer material is injected into a vein in the arm. A special camera takes pictures of the abdomen for 60 minutes.
- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. You will not be enclosed like an MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine test.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hrs.

**If there is anything we can do to make you more comfortable while in the Nuclear Medicine Department, please do not hesitate to ask.**

## **I 123 Thyroid Uptake & Scan**

### **What is the test?**

- An Iodine 123 uptake & scan is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to determine thyroid function (overactive or underactive).

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The radioactive material will be in a capsule form (size of a Tylenol). This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- You may not eat or drink anything after midnight prior to the exam.
- You may not eat any seafood, particularly shellfish, for 1 week.
- If X-ray contrast studies have been performed prior to this exam, the test must be rescheduled. Have your nurse contact the Nuclear Medicine Department.
- Discontinue all thyroid medications for 2 to 4 weeks prior to the exam depending upon which type. Have your nurse contact the Nuclear Medicine Department.

### **What happens when the test is performed?**

- This exam consists of three parts performed on 2 consecutive days.
- On the first day, a pill that contains a small amount of radioactive iodine is taken with a glass of water in the morning. 6 hours later, a special camera will take 4 pictures of the neck. Imaging will take 40 minutes. You will be lying on your back on a narrow table with your neck hyperextended. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. You will not be enclosed like an MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine test.
- You will then sit in front of an instrument that will count your thyroid. This is called the uptake. It takes 10 minutes.
- A radiologist may need to feel your neck after these 2 parts are complete.
- You will return on the second day in the morning for 10 minutes for a second uptake. You may eat prior to the appointment time.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

## **I 123 Thyroid Uptake & Scan**

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hours after the procedure is completed.

**If there is anything we can do to make you more comfortable while in the Nuclear Medicine Department, please do not hesitate to ask.**

## **I 131 Whole Body Thyroid Scan**

### **What is the test?**

- An Iodine 131 whole body scan is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to determine if cancer has spread throughout the body in patients with a history of thyroid cancer.

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The radioactive material will be in a capsule form (size of a Tylenol). This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the pill.
- You may not eat or drink anything after midnight prior to the exam.
- Discontinue all thyroid medications.
- You may be asked to take a laxative (ex lax) the night prior to imaging.

### **What happens when the test is performed?**

- A pill that contains a small amount of radioactive iodine is taken with a glass of water. Two days later (48 hrs after the pill is taken), a special camera will take pictures of the whole body. Imaging will take 30 minutes. Additional images may be requested by the radiologist / technologist.
- The same pictures may be repeated the next day (72 hrs after pill ingestion).
- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. You will not be enclosed like an MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine test.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hours after the procedure is completed.

**If there is anything we can do to make you more comfortable while in the Nuclear Medicine Department, please do not hesitate to ask.**

## **I 131 MIBG Scan**

### **What is the test?**

- I 131 MIBG is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to determine adrenal tumors and more commonly, pheochromocytomas.

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- 1 day before the injection, 1 drop of Lugol's solution is given orally 3 times a day for total of 5 days
- Nothing to eat or drink after midnight prior to the injection and the scan (which occurs 48hours later).
- Preparation will be explained to you prior to your procedure.

### **What happens when the test is performed?**

- A small amount of the radioactive tracer material I131 MIBG is injected into a vein in the arm. A special camera will take pictures 48 hours after the injection. The scan from head to toe will take approximately 30 minutes. Additional images may be needed.
- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. You will not be enclosed like an MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine test.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hours after the procedure is completed.

**If there is anything we can do to make you more comfortable while in the Nuclear Medicine Department, please do not hesitate to ask.**

## **Milk Scan**

### **What is the test?**

- A milk scan is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure performed on infants to determine reflux.

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- The infant may not have anything to eat or drink 4 hours before procedure.
- Bring 2 disposable bottles with 4 ounces of formula in each.
- This procedure should be scheduled around feeding time for the infant.

### **What happens when the test is performed?**

- The baby will drink one of the bottles of formula that will be mixed with a very small amount of a radioactive tracer. The other bottle of formula will follow. Upon feeding completion, pictures will begin.
- The baby will be lying on his back with straps around his body to help prohibit movement.
- Pictures are taken with a special camera for 30 – 60 minutes.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hrs.

**If there is anything we can do to make you more comfortable while in the Nuclear Medicine Department, please do not hesitate to ask.**

## **Muga Scan**

### **What is the test?**

- A Muga scan is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to evaluate how much blood the heart pumps out to the rest of the body.

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- There is no preparation needed for this test.

### **What happens when the test is performed?**

- A blood sample will be drawn, tagged to a radioactive tracer, and re-injected back into a vein in your arm. The tagging procedure takes 20 minutes.
- Once the blood has been re-injected, 3 electrodes will be placed on your chest. They will be hooked up to an EKG monitor, which determines your heart rate. A special camera will use your heartbeats as the radioactive tracer to take pictures of your heart.
- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. You will not be enclosed like an MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine test.
- The pictures take between 20 and 30 minutes.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hrs.

**If there is anything we can do to make you more comfortable while in the Nuclear Medicine Department, please do not hesitate to ask.**

## **Oncoscint**

### **What is the test?**

- An Oncoscint scan is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to determine if there is a spread of cancer in patients with a history of prostate or ovarian cancer.

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- There is no preparation needed for this test.

### **What happens when the test is performed?**

- A small amount of a radioactive tracer material is injected into a vein in the arm. A special camera will then take pictures 3 and 5 days after the injection. The images on those days take 30 – 60 minutes. After review from the Radiologist, additional pictures may be needed.
- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. You will not be enclosed like an MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine test.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hours after the procedure is completed.

**If there is anything we can do to make you more comfortable while in the Nuclear Medicine Department, please do not hesitate to ask.**

## **Octreoscan**

### **What is the test?**

- An Octreoscan is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to determine if there is a neuroendocrine tumor.

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- There is no preparation needed for this test.

### **What happens when the test is performed?**

- A small amount of a radioactive tracer material is injected into a vein in the arm. A special camera will then take pictures 4, 24 and 48 hours after the injection. The images on those days take 30 – 60 minutes. After review from the Radiologist, additional pictures may be needed.
- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. You will not be enclosed like an MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine test.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hours after the procedure is completed.

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## **Parathyroid Scan**

### **What is the test?**

- A parathyroid scan is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to determine cancer in the parathyroid glands.

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- There is no preparation for this procedure.

### **What happens when the test is performed?**

- This exam consists of two scans. A radioactive tracer will be injected into a vein in your arm. There is a 10 minute wait and then a special camera will take pictures of your neck. There is a 2 hour delay when more pictures will be taken. Each set of images takes about 20 minutes. Additional images at 3-4 hours (after the injection) may be requested by the radiologist / technologist.
- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table with your neck hyperextended. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. You will not be enclosed like an MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine test.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hours after the procedure is completed.

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## **Renal Scan**

### **What is the test?**

- A Renal scan is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to determine the function of the kidneys or how medication is affecting the kidneys.

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- There is no preparation for this procedure, unless your physician is requesting a Captopril renal scan. Refer to Captopril Renal Scan.

### **What happens when the test is performed?**

- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table. The imaging camera will be under the bed to take pictures of your kidneys. You will be injected in a vein in your arm and pictures will be taken immediately. They last 40 minutes. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hours after the procedure is complete.

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## **Sentinel Node Localization**

### **What is the test?**

- A Sentinel Node Localization is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to determine if the breast cancer has spread to the lymph nodes.

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- There is no preparation for this procedure.

### **What happens when the test is performed?**

- A small amount of a radioactive tracer material is injected below the breast intradermally.
- You will be asked to massage the breast for 10 minutes.
- A special camera will then take pictures of the injected material. The picture takes about 5 minutes.
- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. You will not be enclosed like an MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine test.
- Additional pictures are taken every 15 minutes until the node is visualized. The entire procedure may last 2 to 3 hours.
- You will then go to the OR for your scheduled procedure.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

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## **Stress Test**

### **What is the test?**

- A stress test with Myoview is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to determine if the heart muscle is getting the blood supply it needs.

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- You may have nothing to eat or drink after midnight.
- Your Physician may instruct you to discontinue certain medications.

### **What happens when the test is performed?**

- This procedure usually consists of two parts: rest and stress.
- Myoview, a radioactive material, will be injected through an IV site while you are at rest, and a special camera that rotates around your chest, will take pictures of your heart after a 20 minute delay for material circulation. Imaging will take 10-20 minutes.
- Upon the pictures being taken, you will be lying on a narrow table with your arms over your head. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped. You will not be enclosed like a MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine procedure.
- Myoview will be injected one other time, either during exercise on a treadmill (wear comfortable shoes), or after the infusion of Persantine or Adenosine, medications that dilate the blood vessels. Then, additional images will be taken of your heart 20 minutes later. These images will take less time than the initial set.
- The entire procedure should not exceed 3 hrs.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hours after the procedure is completed.

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## **Testicular Scan**

### **What is the test?**

- A testicular scan is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to determine if the veins that supply the testicles with blood, are twisted.

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- There is no preparation needed for this test.

### **What happens when the test is performed?**

- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table. Your penis and testicles will be positioned by the technologist.
- A small amount of a radioactive material is injected into a vein in the arm and pictures will begin immediately and will take 30 minutes.
- Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. You will not be enclosed like a MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine test.
- Additional images may be requested by the radiologist/technologist.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hrs.

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## **Tagged WBC Study/Abscess Localization**

### **What is the test?**

- An Abscess Localization is commonly referred to as a “Tagged WBC Study”. It is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure used to determine, and/ or locate an infection, tumor, or abscess in the body.

### **How do I prepare for the test?**

- The majority of Nuclear Medicine exams involve an injection of a radioactive material. This is not a dye; therefore you will have no side effects or reactions to the injection.
- There is no preparation needed for this test.

### **What happens when the test is performed?**

- A technologist will withdraw a large amount of your blood early in the morning. After applying a wristband to your arm that matches the sticker on your blood sample, the technologist will send your blood to our local nuclear pharmacy. They will mix your WBC with a radioactive material and send it back to the Nuclear Medicine Department. This process may take 3-4 hours.
- The same technologist, after verifying your wristband with your blood, will inject your same tagged WBC into a vein in your arm. You will be given a time for pictures by the technologist (after the appropriate waiting time for the radioactive material to circulate).
- Upon your arrival, a special camera will take pictures of the whole body, or the area specified by your doctor. These pictures will take 30 – 60 minutes. Additional pictures may be taken at additional time intervals depending on the diagnosis and doctor order.
- You will be lying on your back on a narrow table. Once the pictures begin, they cannot be stopped until the test is complete. You will not be enclosed like an MRI. The sides of the camera are completely open; therefore, claustrophobic patients can have a nuclear medicine test.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hrs.

**If there is anything we can do to make you more comfortable while in the Nuclear Medicine Department, please do not hesitate to ask.**