



NUCLEAR MEDICINE

Note: It may be helpful to print out this information

WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING MY NUCLEAR MEDICINE TEST?

This type of test uses small amounts of radioactive material to diagnose or treat conditions in the body.

Nuclear medicine tests are a painless way for doctors to diagnose medical conditions. The scan requires a material called a radiotracer. Depending on the type of study that you are having, this tracer is injected into a vein, swallowed or you breathe it in. It collects in the area of your body that is being examined, where it gives off energy in the form of gamma rays.

Most nuclear medicine procedures use a gamma camera. A gamma camera can find the gamma rays (radiation) and take pictures from different angles.

When it is time, you will be asked to lie on a table and the camera will move around your body to collect the pictures. The information is sent to a special computer for the radiologist to review.

HOW LONG WILL MY TEST TAKE?

It depends on the type of test you are having. The actual time spent on the table is usually less than 30 minutes, but it may take longer before you are ready for your scan.

Once you have received the radiotracer, it can take several seconds or up to several days for it to travel through your body. When the radiotracer has collected in the area to be examined, you are ready for the test to begin.

After you receive the radiotracer, you may be scanned immediately or you may need to come back several hours or days later.

HOW DO I PREPARE?

- Wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing. Depending on the test, you may be asked to put on a hospital gown.
- Inform the ordering doctor and the technician of any medications or vitamins that you take. Inform them of any allergies you have.
- Jewelry and valuables should be left at home, if possible. You may be asked to remove jewelry items because they will interfere with the test.
- You may receive special instructions based on the type of test that you need. Make sure to follow all instructions carefully before your test.
- Please let the technician know if you are diabetic.
- Women should always tell the technician if there is a possibility they are pregnant and if they are breastfeeding.

NUCLEAR MEDICINE CHECK-OFF LIST:

•Tell your doctor and the technician of any pregnancy, recent illness, or medical condition:

- Ask your doctor, “Do I need lab work for my study”? YES / NO
- Are there any medications I need to stop taking before my test?

•**Can I eat or drink before the test?** Is there any food or drink I should avoid before the test?

PLEASE CALL 301-475-6133 TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT

Date and time of my appointment _____

****REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR ORDER OF PRESCRIPTION FORM YOUR DOCTOR****

301-475-8981 www.smhwecare.com