



Royal Hospital Nuclear Medicine Department

MUGA Scan

Patient Information Sheet

How nuclear medicine works?

Nuclear Medicine exams can help to assess how well your organs are working. Hence, it is different from other areas of radiology, which create images of the body anatomy. During a nuclear medicine procedure, you will receive an injection of a radioactive material called a radiopharmaceutical. When the radiopharmaceutical reaches the right area, a special machine called a gamma camera will take pictures of the area of interest.

What is a MUGA Scan?

A MUGA (multi-gated acquisition) heart scan is used to evaluate how well the individual walls of your heart chambers work and the sequence of heart muscle contractions. The information obtained from this procedure helps your doctor make decisions about your treatment. If you are currently receiving or about to receive chemotherapy, the information obtained from this study will help your oncologist tailor your dose for maximum therapeutic effect.

What is involved in this test?

- A technologist will inject a small amount of non-radioactive medicine called PYP in a vein in your arm through cannula. This medicine will make the red blood cells receptive to a radioactive material that will be injected later.
- You will then wait 20 to 30 minutes before receiving another injection. The second injection is of a small amount of radiopharmaceutical injected through the cannula. This radioactivity will “tag” the red blood cells so that they can be viewed during the scan.
- The technologist will ask you to lie down on the scanner bed and place

three ECG leads on your chest, then attach the leads to an ECG machine which is connected to the gamma camera.

- Images of your heart will be taken.
- You must remain still during the study.
- The scanning procedure will take about 15 minutes.

What happens after the test?

You may resume your normal activities once the examination is complete. There are no known side effects from the test. The report will be sent to your doctor.

Preparation

There is no preparation required for this test.

For female patients

- If you are pregnant, please tell the technologist before you are injected with the radioactive tracer.
- Please consult your technologist if you are breastfeeding for further instructions.

Your MUGA Scan has been scheduled for _____ at _____

If you have any questions or concerns about the test, or if you need to cancel or reschedule your appointment, please contact the Nuclear Medicine Department at 24627069

Nuclear Medicine Department is located on the Ground floor in the Oncology Centre

Please check in with nuclear medicine reception 15 minutes before your appointment.

