

Imaging Patient Education

What you should know about your MUGA Scan:

Purpose:

Nuclear medicine uses small amounts of radioactive material to diagnose and sometimes treat disease. Nuclear medicine procedures provide images that show how organs and tissues work. These procedures are noninvasive and very safe. More than 20 million Americans benefit each year from nuclear medicine procedures. This scan is performed to assess the heart's pumping function.

Preparation:

- None

Procedure:

- You will be asked to verify your name, date of birth, and exam you will be having done.
- We will take a brief medical history.
- We will start an IV in your arm and draw a small amount of blood. Your red blood cells are tagged with a radioactive material and injected back into your vein. There are no side effects from this injection.
- You will then be positioned on an imaging table on your back. You will be attached to a heart monitor for your images. You will be made as comfortable as possible and asked to lie still during the exam. Imaging time is approximately 30 minutes.
- The total length of time for this exam is 1 ½ hours.

After the Test:

- No reactions or special precautions.
- Your exam will be evaluated by a radiologist and the report will be sent to your physician.

Risks and Benefits:

The amount of radiation used in most nuclear medicine procedures is comparable to and often less than that of a diagnostic x-ray. Only small amounts of radioactive material are used and this material is quickly eliminated from the body. Side effects of nuclear medicine procedures are very rare. Nuclear medicine is generally not recommended for women who are pregnant or breastfeeding.

If you have questions or need additional information,
please call the Nuclear Medicine Department: (717) 339-2027.