

Imaging Patient Education

What you should know about your Breast Imaging:

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. Breast imaging is performed to check for malignant breast tissue and to further evaluate a questionable finding on a mammogram.

Preparation:

- Try to schedule this exam during ovulation.
- You may be asked to remove some or all of your clothes and to wear a gown during the exam.

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.
- You will be injected in the arm opposite of the breast of concern. If both breasts are being evaluated, the injection will be given in your foot. There are no side effects from this injection.
- You will lie down on your stomach with a camera above and below you. You will be made as comfortable as possible and asked to lie still during the exam.
- Total imaging time is approximately 45 minutes.

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.