Exercise Radionuclide Angiography Scan (SRNA or MUGA scan)

Information for patients

Appointment date: ____________________________

Appointment time: ____________________________

Location:

☐ Toronto Western Hospital, Nuclear Cardiology
  East Wing – 5th floor
  Phone: 416 603 5658

☐ Toronto General Hospital, Nuclear Cardiology
  Gerrard Wing – 1st floor
  Phone: 416 340 4800 extension 4497

Robert J. Burns Nuclear Cardiology Laboratory
Toronto Western Hospital
Toronto, ON M5T 2S8
Phone: 416 603 5658
What is the exercise radionuclide angiography Scan?

This scan, also known as SRNA or MUGA, is a test that uses a radioactive tracer (called a radionuclide) to:

- check the effects of chemotherapy on your heart
- check how well your heart is pumping
- find the reason for your shortness of breath (is it coming from your lungs or heart?)
- help with pre-transplant and congestive heart failure (CHF) assessment

**Important:**

- Please let the technologist know if you might be pregnant or you are breastfeeding.
- Do not bring children or pregnant women with you to the department. We do not want to expose them to unnecessary radiation.

How do I get ready for the test?

- **Do not** eat 3 to 4 hours before the test, but you may have juice or water.
- If you have diabetes you may have a small meal of toast and jam with juice or water.
- Take all of your medications as usual.
- Bring a list of all the medications and supplements you take. This includes vitamins, herbal remedies, and holistic medicine.
- Wear comfortable clothes and shoes.
How long is the test?
The test takes about 1½ hours.

What will happen during the test?
- A technologist will explain the test to you and ask about your medical history and the medications you take.
- You will get two needles 20 to 30 minutes apart. The second needle is a radioactive tracer (not a dye).
- Your blood pressure and an ECG will also be taken.
- The technologist will ask you to lie down on a bed so a special camera can take pictures of your heart from 3 or 4 angles.
- Each picture takes 5 to 10 minutes.
- It is very important that you do not move during these pictures.
- Next, pictures will be taken while you pedal a bicycle.
- The bicycle tension will be increased every 3 minutes.

Any of the procedures can change depending on the nuclear medicine doctor. The test can take longer if:
- a scan has to be done again
- emergency cases come to the department
- there are unexpected events

How safe is the test?
Stress tests are very safe.
- There is a very small chance of heart attack (1 in 10,000).
- There are no side effects from the radioactive tracer.

How do I get my test results?
The final report of your test will be sent to your doctor who will go over the results with you.