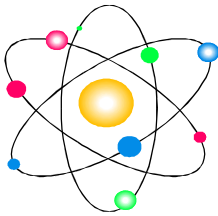


# Brain SPECT Scan



UHN

## Information for Patients



### How Nuclear Medicine Works

Nuclear medicine exams assess how your organs work. This is different from other areas of radiology, which create images based on your anatomy.

During a Nuclear Medicine procedure, you will swallow, inhale, or receive an injection of a radioactive material called a **radiopharmaceutical**. When the radiopharmaceutical reaches the right area, a technologist will take pictures of you with a special machine called a gamma camera.

### What is a brain SPECT scan?

A brain SPECT scan lets the doctor see the brain in 3-D. It gives images of the blood flow in the brain so doctors have information on how the brain is working.

This scan can help doctors find certain brain conditions such as:

- brain trauma
- tumors
- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
- Parkinson's disease,
- Alzheimers
- other neuropsychiatric disorders.

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### **What is the test like?**

- A technologist will inject a small amount of radioactive tracer into a vein in your arm or hand.
- The scan will start right after the injection if the injection is given on the scan bed. This will take 5 minutes.
- When the pictures are done, you will then have to wait in the waiting room for 30 to 60 minutes. This waiting time lets the radiopharmaceutical to build up in the brain.
- After 30 to 60 minutes, a technologist will call you into the same room and have you lie down again on the same bed. There are no more injections. The scan will take about 20 minutes.

### **What happens after the test?**

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

### **Preparation**

- There is no preparation for this test.
- If you do not have a blue card from University Health Network, please come 30 minutes before your appointment time and go to Patient Registration, located on the ground floor near the Elizabeth Street entrance or at the desk of the main University Avenue entrance.

### **For female patients**

If there is any chance that you are pregnant, tell the technologist **before** you are injected with the radioactive tracer. **You will need to stop breastfeeding 24 hours for this test**, so tell the technologist if you are nursing a baby.

Your brain SPECT scan has been schedule on \_\_\_\_\_  
at \_\_\_\_\_.

If you have any questions or concerns about the test, or if you need to cancel or reschedule your appointment, please contact the Toronto General Hospital Nuclear Medicine department at 416-340-3311.

At Toronto General Hospital, the Nuclear Medicine department is located on the first floor of the hospital, ES1-408, near the east elevators.

**Check in at the Medical Imaging reception area (University Avenue entrance, across from the pharmacy) 15 minutes before your appointment.**