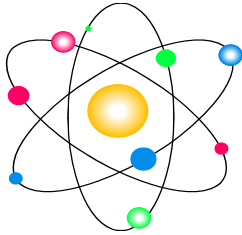


Octreotide Scan



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 an octreotide scan?

This study finds neuroendocrine tumours with somatostatin receptors.

What is the test like?

- You will have an injection of a small amount of radioactive material into your vein.
- When you return, you will lie on a special table that lets us take pictures of your whole body. A camera will be placed above and below your body.
- Images are taken 24 hours after the injection. Special pictures called SPECT scans are taken. The camera will move in a circle around your body.

What happens after the test?

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

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Created: 10/2008

Form: D-5568 (06/2011)



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Preparation

- Drink lots of liquids before and one day after the injection of the radioactive tracer. Go to the bathroom often to bring down the amount of radiation in your body.
- Take a mild laxative (i.e., Dulcolax) at bedtime starting the evening before injection and continue for the next 48 hours.
- 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.

If you have to cancel your appointment, please call us early because this test takes a long time to do and is very expensive.

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 for this test, so tell the technologist if you are nursing a baby.

Your octreotide scan has a total of 2 appointments, which have been scheduled for:

_____ (injection) and

_____ (24hr scan)

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.**