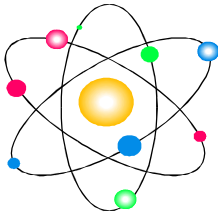


Parathyroid Scan



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 parathyroid scan?

The parathyroid is a gland in the thyroid gland of the neck and it controls calcium metabolism in your body.

A parathyroid scan is done when the parathyroid seems to be overactive or when there may be a tumor.

What is the test like?

- The test will begin with an injection of a small amount of radioactive material into a vein. Images are taken 10 minutes after the injection while you lie on a scan bed that lets us take pictures. The images will take about 1 hour.

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Author: JDMI Nuclear Medicine

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University Health Network
Toronto General Hospital Toronto Western Hospital Princess Margaret Hospital

- Then you leave and come back 3 hours later for more images and another injection of a different radioactive tracer that goes to the thyroid gland. This takes about 1 hour.

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.

Preparing for the test

- 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, 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. Please talk with your technologist if you are breastfeeding for more instructions.

Your parathyroid test has been scheduled on _____
at _____ and _____.

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