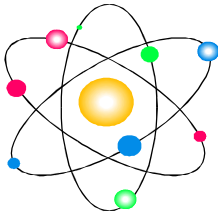


Ventilation-Perfusion Lung Scan



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 lung scan?

A ventilation/perfusion lung scan will show the air supply and blood supply to your lungs. It is used to rule out pulmonary embolism (blood clots in the lungs).

What is the test like?

- The lung scan will be done in 2 parts.
- For the ventilation images, we will ask you to breathe a small amount of radioactive gas. This will show us the air supply to your lungs.
- Once there is enough gas in your lungs, 6 images will be taken from different angles around your chest. These will take about 5 minutes each.

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- After the ventilation study is over, we will give you an injection of a small amount of a different radioactive tracer into a vein.
- The same 6 images will be repeated. This time they will show the blood supply to your lungs, and will take about 2 minutes each.

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 required for this test.
- If you have not had a chest x-ray done within 24 hours of the lung scan, you may be sent for one after the study is over.
- If you do not have a blue card from University Health Network, please come half an hour 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 lung scan has been scheduled 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 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.**

