Renal Captopril Scan

Information for patients and families

Read this information to learn:

• what a renal captopril scan is
• how to prepare
• what to expect
• who to call if you have any questions

Your renal captopril scan has been scheduled for:

Baseline study:
Date: __________________________
Time: __________________________

Captopril study:
Date: __________________________
Time: __________________________

Toronto General Hospital
585 University Avenue
Medical Imaging Reception
Peter Munk Building – 1st floor
What is a renal captopril scan?

A renal captopril is a nuclear medicine test. It shows how your blood flows to your kidney and compares how your right and left kidneys are working.

It also helps to find areas in the arteries leading to your kidneys that are narrow or blocked. Narrow or blocked renal arteries can cause high blood pressure (also called renal artery stenosis).

How do nuclear medicine tests work?

Nuclear medicine tests are different from x-rays. X-rays show what your body looks like. Nuclear medicine tests show how your body and organs are working.

Before a nuclear medicine test, something called a radiopharmaceutical is put in your body. A radiopharmaceutical is radioactive. This means it gives off energy. To get the radiopharmaceutical in your body, you will:

- swallow it
- breathe it in
- or get an injection (a needle)

It will travel to the part of your body that your doctor wants to see. When it reaches the right area, we will take pictures of you. We will use a special machine called a gamma camera. It takes pictures of the energy coming from the radiopharmaceutical (also called radioactive tracer).

Nuclear medicine tests can help find problems that other tests can’t find.
How do I prepare for the test?

There are 2 parts to this test. The baseline study and the captopril study. The captopril study happens 2 days after the baseline study.

☑️ For both of these studies, stop taking all blood pressure medicines the night before the scan (unless your doctor tells you not to).

  Note: Stop taking the medicines Enalapril®, Monopril® and Vasotec® 1 week before your test. If you are taking Captopril®, stop taking it 48 hours before your test.

☑️ For the captopril study, don’t eat anything for 4 hours before the test.

☑️ Bring a complete list of all of the medicines you take to your appointment.

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

☑️ Remember to bring your Ontario health card (OHIP). If you do not have an OHIP card, please bring another form of government-issued photo ID (such as a driver’s license, passport, or other provincial health card).

If you haven’t registered, please come to Patient Registration 30 minutes before your appointment. It’s on the Ground floor near the Elizabeth Street entrance. It’s also at the main desk at the University Avenue entrance.

For women:
If there is any chance that you are pregnant, tell the technologist before they give you the radioactive tracer.

You will need to stop breastfeeding for 24 hours after this test. Tell the technologist if you are breastfeeding.
What can I expect?

Baseline Study:

1. A technologist weighs you and measures your height.
2. We ask you to drink 3 to 4 glasses of water in 20 minutes. You can empty your bladder any time you want during that time.
3. You lie down on a scan bed and we inject a small amount of radioactive tracer into a vein in your arm or hand.
4. The scan starts right after you are injected. It takes about 20 minutes.
5. We then ask you to empty your bladder and return for 2 more scans. They take about 5 minutes.

The baseline study takes about 1 hour.

Captopril Study:

The test is the same as the baseline study, except you will take a medicine called Captopril 1 hour before the test. We will measure your blood pressure before the Captopril and every 15 minutes for 1 hour.

Are there any side effects?

There are no known side effects from this test. You can go back to your normal activities once the test is over. We will send a report to your doctor.

Who can I call if I have any questions?

If you have any questions or concerns or if you need to cancel or reschedule your appointment, please contact the nuclear medicine department at 416 340 3311.

The nuclear medicine department is on the 1st floor of Toronto General Hospital, EB1 – 408, near the Eaton elevators.