

What is Nuclear Medicine?

Nuclear Medicine uses very small amounts of radioactive isotopes, usually attached to a radiopharmaceutical to allow images to be taken of various organs in the body.

It is used to assess the functional information and structure of organs, provide early detection of diseases and show the progress of treatments.

How long does Nuclear Medicine take?

Scanning times may vary depending on your scan, times can be for 3 hours to 30 minutes.

Nuclear Medicine Services

- Myocardial Perfusion Scan
- Bone Scan
- Thyroid Scan
- Parathyroid Scan
- V/Q Lung Scan (ventilation-perfusion)
- GIT Transit Study
- HIDA Scan (Biliary Scan)
- Renal Scan (DTDA/DMSA/MAG3)
- Gallium Scan
- Red Cell Scan
- Lymphoscintigraphy including:
 - Breast Cancer screen
 - Melanoma screening
 - Pedal Lymphoedema
- Brain Perfusion Studies
- Gated Blood Pool Scan
- Liver Spleen Scan

Is the any preparation?

There are different preparation procedures for different types of Nuclear medicine scans these preparations can also be assessed and altered for every patient.

Before your scan please discuss your required preparation with your referring doctor and the Nuclear Technician.

Is it safe?

Nuclear Medicine is safe diagnostic tool due to radioactive isotopes quickly being eliminated from the body through its natural functions. At Nepean Radiology the radiation dose necessary for a scan is always kept to a minimum whilst still providing quality images.

What if I'm pregnant or just gave birth?

If you are pregnant, or it is possible that you may be pregnant, then a Nuclear Medicine scan may not be appropriate. It is possible that an ultrasound or MRI scan may provide similar information and therefore be used as a substitute. Please inform our clinic if this situation applies to you.

If you have a new born or small children please advise staff as radiation safety measures apply.

What if I'm breastfeeding?

You must advise your referring doctor, the Nuclear Technician and reception staff if you are breastfeeding or just given birth as special precautions have to be taken.

Who conducts my Nuclear Medicine scan?

A trained Nuclear Medicine Technologist who is accredited with the Australian New Zealand Society of Nuclear Medicine (ANZSNM) will conduct your scan.

What if I'm on medication?

You must advise your referring doctor and the Nuclear Technician if you are on any medication. The use of medications may need to be reviewed, prior to confirming an appointment.

When do I get the results?

The results of your Nuclear Medicine scan can take up to 1 day to be finalised. You will be advised when to pick up your images and report for your follow up with your doctor.

What documents do I need?

Please bring with you your referral, any prior scans and reports as this will assist the radiologist in assessing your condition.

How do I make an appointment?

You can call our clinic directly on 1300 009 729 to book in an appointment.

