

What is a Nuclear Medicine Gated Blood Pool Scan?

A Nuclear Medicine Gated Blood Pool Scan (also referred to as a **MUGA** scan) is a scan to assess your hearts ability to pump blood around the body.

This scan is commonly used to assess heart function in patients receiving chemotherapy or drugs that may have an effect on the heart. It can also be used to look for cardiac disease.

To look at the heart, we use a radioactive dye (tracer) injected into the blood stream.

If you have any questions, our staff can answer these before we start the scan.

How do I prepare for the scan?

There is no preparation for this scan.

Please call us on (04) 806 2913 if you:

- Have received or are scheduled for chemotherapy or Herceptin in the seven days before this appointment.
- Are pregnant or breastfeeding.

What happens during the scan?

There are two parts to this procedure.

First we will inject you with a small amount of a medicine, into a vein in your arm, to prepare your blood for labelling.

30 minutes later you will be injected with a radioactive tracer that will label your blood and allow pictures of the blood pumped by your heart.

Electrocardiogram (ECG) leads will be placed on your chest and connected to a heart monitor.

The scan will take approximately 15 minutes.

Is it Safe?

Yes, there are no associated side effects to the medication or radioactive injection.

The amount of radioactive material given for the scan is small.

Are there any special precautions afterwards?

We advise you to avoid prolonged close contact with children or pregnant women for the rest of the day - simply to avoid exposing them to any unnecessary radiation.

For children under investigation, the radiation dose is so low that there is no need for any special precautions.

The radioactivity disappears naturally by a process called decay.

Results

The Nuclear Medicine Radiologist will evaluate the results of your scan and send a report to your doctor.

The results are usually available approximately one week following the scan.

Contact us

Phone: (04) 806 2193

Hours: 8am-4pm, Monday to Friday

Email: radiology.admin@ccdhb.org.nz