

What is a Brain Perfusion Scan?

A Nuclear Medicine Brain Perfusion Scan is a test to look at the blood supply and blood flow in the brain. We can look at Epilepsy, mental health disorders, age related illnesses and can be useful when other types of brain scans have not been helpful.

To look at the brain, 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?

Do not drink any drinks containing caffeine such as coffee, tea, cola, energy drinks and smoking from 10pm the night before your scan.

Please call us on (04) 806 2193 if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Can I take my medication?

Do not take any sedatives on the morning of your scan.

You will not need to stop any other medication for this scan unless your doctor tells you to do so.

What happens during the scan?

When you arrive you will be taken into a room where an IV cannula will be inserted into a vein in your arm. You will need to rest alone for 15 minutes in a quiet, darkened room before the radioactive tracer is given. This is so your brain is not stimulated by any interaction you may have with another person. During this time it is also important not to read, use your phone or listen to music.

Once the tracer has been injected, you will need to rest for another 5 minutes. After this you will be able to get up. Your scan, or pictures, will be 60 minutes later. This scan will take 30 minutes.

Please allow approximately 2 hours for the entire procedure.

Is it Safe?

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

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

Are there any precautions afterwards?

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

For children having this scan, the radiation dose is so low that there is no need for any special precautions.

The radioactive tracer disappears naturally by a process called decay.

Results

The Nuclear Medicine Radiologist will evaluate the results of your pictures and send a report to your doctor. The results are available within two weeks following the scan.

Contact us

Phone: (04) 806 2193

Hours: 8am-4pm, Monday to Friday

Fax: (04) 385 5590

Email: radiology.admin@ccdhb.org.nz