

## 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 procedure to assess the heart's pumping ability by calculating the function of the left ventricle of your heart.

This procedure is commonly used to assess heart function in patients receiving chemotherapy or drugs that may potentially have an adverse effect on the heart. It may also indicate the presence of underlying cardiac diseases.

## Preparation for the Scan

Please contact the department if you **have received or are scheduled for chemotherapy or herceptin seven days prior** to this appointment.

Please contact the department if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

## About the Procedure

There are two parts to this procedure.

Initially you will be injected with a small amount of medication into a vein in your arm to prepare your blood for labelling.

About 15 to 20 minutes later you will be injected with a radioactive tracer that will label your blood and allow imaging of the blood ejected 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?

There are no associated side effects to the medication or radioactive injection.

The amount of radioactive material given for the scan is small. You will not need to take any precautions after the scan.

## Are there any special precautions afterwards?

The only thing we do advise is 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 under investigation, the radiation dose is so low that there is no need to observe the above precaution.

The radioactivity disappears naturally by a process called decay.

## Results

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

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

### Contact us

Phone: (04) 806 2193

Hours: 8am-4pm, Monday to Friday

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