

What is a Nuclear Medicine Lacrimal Scan?

A Nuclear Medicine Lacrimal Scan is a test that is used to show how well tears are drained away from the eyes.

The scan is useful for locating and assessing the severity of blockages in the tear (lacrimal) drainage system.

Preparation for the Scan

No preparation is required.

Please contact the department if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

About the Procedure

The test requires one small drop of a radioactive tracer to be placed into each eye. It will not sting your eyes or affect your eyesight. The tracer allows the camera to visualise the drainage system of your tear ducts.

Once the drops have been administered imaging will start immediately.

You will sit facing the camera, keeping your head still for one (1) minute at five (5) minute intervals.

The total imaging time is thirty (30) minutes. Before the last image is taken you will be asked to blow your nose to encourage tracer drainage.

Please allow up to sixty (60) minutes for the entire procedure.

Is it Safe?

There are no associated side effects and the eye drops will not change your vision, so you will be able to drive after the examination.

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

You will not need to take any precautions after the scan.

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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