



Mater Misericordiae University Hospital

Preparing for your MUGA Scan

What is a 'MUGA scan'?

In Nuclear Medicine we use an injection of a small amount of radioactivity to show areas of your body that your doctor wishes to examine more closely. A 'MUGA' scan is a test, which helps to look at your heart in a different way to other scans (CAT scan or MRI) and shows how well your heart is working.

What will your scan involve?

On the day of the scan you will be asked to attend the x-ray department, where you will be brought to the Nuclear Medicine department. The scan itself involves one of the radiographers giving you a small injection into a vein in the arm. This injection should have no side effects (such as making you sleepy). We then have to wait approximately 30 minutes before giving you a second injection. You will then be asked to lie on a bed and a special camera will pass over your body, this takes about 30mins. You will not need to undress except to remove metal objects (i.e. necklaces and chains).

Is there any preparation before this scan?

There is no preparation for this scan. You may eat and drink as normal and are free to continue with any medication as prescribed by your doctor. Comfortable clothes are advised with as few metal buttons as possible.

What about after the scan?

It is recommended that you minimise the time you spend in close contact (within 2 meters) with small children and pregnant women for the 24 hours following the injection, to avoid unnecessarily exposing them to very small amounts of radiation.

Please do not bring small children to the department with you, however, you are quite welcome to bring an adult companion to the department as long as they are definitely not pregnant or trying for a baby.



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How much radiation will I get?

Firstly, it is very important to know that you will only receive a very small amount of radiation. We are all exposed to natural background radiation during our lives. The radiation dose from this scan is similar to that which you would receive from the environment over a period of 1-2 years. The benefits to you having this scan outweigh any possible radiation risks.

Do I need to bring anything with me?

Don't forget to bring your appointment card if your doctor gave you one. Although every effort is made to keep to the appointed times, unforeseeable events may cause delays and therefore a magazine/book may be useful.

How soon will I get the results?

A doctor in Nuclear Medicine analyses your scan and writes a report, which is then sent to your doctor. Your doctor should then have the results within the next 7-10 days or else at the time of your next appointment.

When you come for your scan you will first need to go to the X-ray department.

LADIES

It is very important that we avoid carrying out this examination if you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant. If this is the case, please contact us in advance. When you arrive for your scan you will be asked for the date of the first day of your last period. If your period is overdue, your appointment date may be re-arranged.