

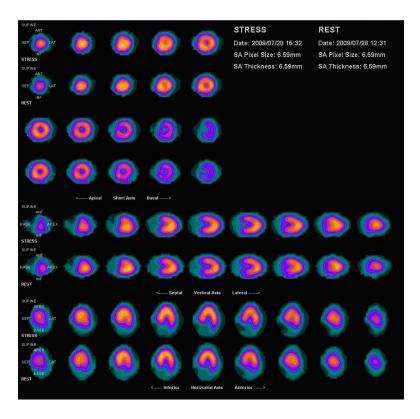




WHAT IS A MYOCARDIAL PERFUSION SCAN?

A myocardial perfusion scan is used to determine the sufficiency of blood flow (i.e. oxygen supply) to the heart tissue. It shows how well the heart muscle is pumping, which can aid in the detection of coronary artery disease.





DO I NEED TO PREPARE FOR THE SCAN?

Yes. You should consult your primary doctor about medications that may slow the heart rate or if you have a pacemaker. Smoking, coffee, tea, carbonated drinks, chocolate and caffeine are prohibited a day before the scan. You should also fast for a minimum of 4 hours and bring a fatty meal to eat on your appointment day.



You should inform our staff if you:

- Are taking any medications
- Have allergies or other medical conditions, such as diabetes, asthma, etc.
- Are claustrophobic
- Are suspected to be pregnant or breastfeeding

HOW IS A MYOCARDIAL PERFUSION SCAN DONE?

A complete myocardial perfusion scan typically consists of 2 parts, which are the stress test and rest test. Both the stress test and rest test can be done on the same day. When you arrive for your appointment, our department staff will explain the whole process to you.

A stress myocardial perfusion scan assesses the blood flow to the heart muscle when it is stressed. You will be given medication to stress the heart, which will increase your heart rate or widen (dilate) your blood vessels, just like it would with exercise.

Once the radioactive tracer is injected and has circulated throughout your body, the scanner will rotate around you and take images of the heart during stress and again later at rest. These 2 sets of images will then be compared.



THE RISKS OF A MYOCARDIAL PERFUSION SCAN



- The needle used to set the intravenous line may cause some pain.
- You may experience slight pain at the injection site.
- The stress medication may temporarily induce feelings of anxiety, dizziness, nausea, shakiness, shortness of breath, or chest pain.
- The injection contains a small amount of radioactive tracers that emits radiation. However, this scan involves only a small amount of radiation. Your referring doctor will recommend the scan only if the risks of not getting it outweigh the risks of the test itself.



AFTER THE SCAN

Drink plenty of fluids and empty your bladder often for 24 to 48 hours after the scan. This will help in removing the remaining radioactive tracers from your body.

For the rest of the day, patients are advised to keep a 1-metre distance from children or pregnant women to avoid exposing them to unnecessary radiation.

WHEN YOU WILL GET THE REPORT?

The Nuclear Medicine Physician's report will be prepared shortly after your scan, but it may take some time to reach your referring doctor or be ready for collection. It is typically available at the end of the day.



For more information, kindly contact us:

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Our Nuclear Medicine Centre is located at Basement, Tower C

Operation Hours

Monday - Friday: 8.30am - 5.30pm 8.30am - 12.30pm Saturday: Closed On Sundays & Public Holidays

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