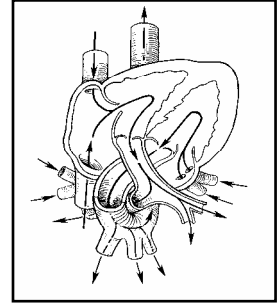


MUGA HEART SCAN

Patient Education

What is the purpose of this test?

A MUGA (multi-gated acquisition) heart scan is used to evaluate how well the individual walls of your heart chambers work and the sequence of heart muscle contractions. The information obtained from this procedure helps your doctor make decisions about your treatment. If you are currently receiving or about to receive chemotherapy, the information obtained from this study will help your oncologist tailor your dose for maximum therapeutic effect.



How should I prepare for this test?

No special preparation is necessary for this test.

How is the test done?

A nuclear medicine technologist will start a small IV and inject a small amount of medicine. This medicine will make the red blood cells receptive to a radioactive material that will be injected 15-20 minutes later through the same intravenous line. This radioactivity will "tag" the red blood cells so that they can be viewed during the scan. You then will lie on a narrow couch under a camera that is linked to a computer. EKG patches will be attached to your chest to feed your heart rate to the camera will record the circulation of blood through your heart. The information will be obtained through two (2) views to ensure different angles. You must remain still during the study.

How long does the test take?

You should expect to be in the Nuclear Medicine Department for approximately one hour.

What about radiation?

Only a small amount of radiation is used in this procedure. The dose for each patient is carefully selected to give the least possible exposure while still allowing for an accurate exam. The radiologist and technologists are trained in radiation safety. **CAUTION:** This test should not be done during pregnancy or breast feeding.

After the test...

Your MUGA scan will be analyzed by a cardiologist who specializes in interpreting this kind of test. He will report the findings to your doctor, who will then discuss the results with you and explain any treatment you may require. The radioactive drug you received will remain in your system for two days.

CONTACT YOUR PHYSICIAN FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS