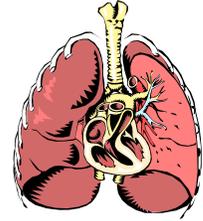


LUNG SCAN

Patient Education

What is the purpose of this test?

A lung scan views the blood flow through your lungs to check for an abnormality such as a mass or pulmonary embolism (blood clot in your lungs). An embolism left untreated is dangerous. With treatment, however, most patients recover quickly. The results of this study will help your doctor make treatment recommendations.



How should I prepare for this test?

No special preparation is necessary.

How is the test performed?

There are usually two parts to a lung scan. First, you will be given an injection into the vein of a small amount of a radioactive tracer that will allow us to evaluate how well your blood circulates through your lungs to receive oxygen. Several images will be taken and then shown to a radiologist. At that time, the radiologist may need to evaluate how well air gets into your lungs, so a clamp will be placed over your nose and you will breathe a fine mist of 100% oxygen through your mouth for approximately eight (8) minutes. Then, more pictures will be obtained.

How long does the test take?

You should be in the Nuclear Medicine Department for at least 1 hours for both tests.

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 examination. The radiologist and the technician are trained in radiation safety procedures. **CAUTION:** This test should not be done during pregnancy or if breast feeding.

After the test...

You will have a chest x-ray taken (if one has not been done in the past 24 hours) that will be analyzed with the lung scan by a radiologist who specializes in interpreting this kind of test. He will report his findings to your doctor, who will then discuss the results with you and explain any treatment you may require. If you are breast-feeding, talk with your doctor before resuming.

CONTACT YOUR PHYSICIAN FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS