



Please contact one of the technologists if you have any questions concerning the information seen on this page.

Parotid (Salivary Gland) Scan

Study Overview

Prep:

- Thyroid-blocking agents such as iodide or perchlorate should be withheld for 48 hours prior to exam
- Chew gum to stimulate salivary glands

Exam Time:

- 1 1/2 hours

Overview:

- Patient is injected with a small amount of radioactive material and images are taken over a 1 hour period
- During the imaging, the patient will have lemon juice in their mouth in order to stimulate the salivary glands.

Contraindications

- Pregnancy
- Breastfeeding
- Hypersensitivity to any material used
- Prep not followed

Indications

- Differentiation of Warthin's tumor from other malignant or benign salivary tumors
- Evaluation of function of palpable masses in parotid or salivary tissue
- Evaluation of salivary gland function
- Evaluation of anatomic size and position of salivary glands
- Evaluation and assessment of salivary glands for pre-external or interstitial radiotherapy candidates

Billing/Coding

Nuclear Sonics Billing #: 38

CPT Code: 78231

CPT Name:

Salivary gland imaging; with serial images

Radiopharmaceutical Used:

Tc-99m Pertechnetate

HCPCS Code: A9512

NDC #: if needed, please contact NSA technologist

Billing for Rp: per millicurie

Interventional Drug: None

Pregnancy/Breastfeeding Concerns

It is at the discretion of the ordering physician, the radiologist and the patient, whether or not a pregnant patient should have any nuclear medicine procedures performed until after the pregnancy has ended. It is the recommendation of Nuclear Sonics that patients who are breastfeeding should discontinue for 10 half-lives of the radiopharmaceutical. This is typically a Technetium product, which has a radioactive half-life of 6 hours, so the typical discontinuation should occur for 60 hours.

Disclaimer: These are the recommendations of Nuclear Sonics. At times, the ordering provider may choose a different prep, use the study for something other than what is indicated or order the study even if the study is contraindicated. The prospective Radiology Department and/or Nuclear Sonics will ascertain whether or not the ordering provider wishes to go against the recommendations.