

Nuclear Medicine Patient Information

www.NuclearSonics.com

What is nuclear medicine?

Nuclear Medicine is a specialty field within radiology that uses a small amount of radioactive material to look at the structure and function of most parts of the body. The procedures are non-invasive and require no anesthesia. The radioactive material is either injected, swallowed or inhaled.

What should I expect on the day of my exam?

When you arrive at the hospital, check in at the Out-patient Registration. When you register, your personal information and insurance will be updated. Once checked in, you will be directed to the waiting room, where the Nuclear Medicine Technologist (NMT) will expect to find you when it is time for the examination. At that time, the NMT will escort you to an exam room or outside to the imaging truck. Unless the patient is a young child, no friends or family will be allowed in the imaging truck. For specific details about your exam, please visit our website.

When is my test?

Nuclear Sonics is at the hospital on a specific day each week. You will be contacted the day before the exam with a time. Nuclear Sonics will do all we can to accommodate your schedule, so if you foresee a conflict, please contact the radiology department well in advance. Due to the volume of patients, it is not always possible to accommodate everyone's schedules.

What if I need to cancel my appointment?

If you need to cancel your appointment, please contact the radiology department by 5 pm, the day before your study. Patients are generally held responsible for the cost of the radioactive material used for the test if the exam is not cancelled by that time.

The goal of Nuclear Sonics is to provide you first class care along with a high quality exam close to home.



*As a partner in your medical care,
we look forward to providing the
care you need and deserve.*

Are there any side effects?

The radioactive material should cause no side effects, although there is a slight chance with the most likely side effect being a rash. A few of the procedures use other materials that may cause some side effects. These will be explained to you prior to the exam.

Is the radiation dangerous to me or others?

Due to the low amount of radioactivity, the type of radiation given off by the material, and the short radioactive half-life, there is very little radiation exposure. For most studies the amount is often times compared to that of a chest x-ray. If you are not pregnant, you should have no concerns about radiation exposure to you or others with the studies performed by Nuclear Sonics. There are risks that must be evaluated for women who may be pregnant or who are breastfeeding. Please inform either the radiology department or the ordering provider if there is a chance of pregnancy or if you are breastfeeding.

Will my claustrophobia bother me?

Very rarely do people have problems with nuclear medicine exams and claustrophobia. In extreme cases, physicians have prescribed a medication to help patients get through the exam.

Date of Test: _____

Hospital: _____

Name of Study: _____

Prep: _____
