

Common Tests

Common Nuclear Medicine Tests include:

- **Bone Scans** - A bone scan involves an injection of a radiopharmaceutical into a vein in the arm. This radiopharmaceutical then moves from the blood into your bones at which point scans are then performed.
- **Renal Scans** - There are various renal scans that can be performed. They involve having an injection of a radiopharmaceutical into a vein in the arm, and imaging will be performed usually straight away.
- **Thyroid Scans** - A thyroid scan involves an injection of a radiopharmaceutical into a vein in the arm. A wait of approximately 20 minutes is allowed for the radiopharmaceutical to be taken up by the thyroid gland at which point scans are then performed.
- **Myocardial Perfusion Scans** - This procedure is also known as Thallium scan, Exercise Stress test, Dipyridamole Stress test or Dobutamine stress test.

Are there any risks/side effects of Nuclear Medicine tests?

The doses of radio tracer rarely cause any side effects. These rare side effects may include nausea, vomiting or a rash but are very uncommon, occurring in approximately 1 in 10,000 people.

The dose of radiation is small and usually no precautions are necessary. The radiopharmaceuticals break down by themselves in a short time. Most are undetectable within 24 - 36 hours.

The injection does not hurt and there is no iodine in it so you should not have any flushing or funny feelings.

After the procedure you are able to drive a car and eat and drink normally.

In cases where the patient may have close contact with babies or young children (including breast feeding) shortly after the procedure, specific advice will be provided.

Locations and Contact Details

CENTRAL CLINICS

St Andrew's Hospital ✓
Phone: 08 8402 4402
Fax: 08 8402 4430

Calvary Wakefield Hospital ✓
Phone: 08 8306 5612
Fax: 08 8306 5623

Burnside
Phone: 08 8403 3100
Fax: 08 8403 3120

Kurralt Park ✓
Phone: 1300 43 55 66
Fax: 08 8193 9550

Stepney (SPORTSMED)
Phone: 08 8309 2209
Fax: 08 8309 2223

SAHMRI - Opening Late 2016
Phone: 08 8470 6750
Fax: 08 8470 6755

NORTHERN CLINICS

Modbury
Phone: 08 8397 5800
Fax: 08 8397 5811

Munno Para (Blakeview)
Phone: 08 8307 9700
Fax: 08 8307 9709

Prospect
Phone: 08 8309 4130
Fax: 08 8309 4142

HILLS CLINICS

Mt. Barker District Hospital
Phone: 1800 766 433
Fax: 08 8188 7729

Mt. Barker Central
Phone: 1800 766 433
Fax: 08 8188 7713

SOUTHERN CLINICS

Noarlunga Hospital ✓
Phone: 08 8307 3400
Fax: 08 8307 3420

Seaford Meadows
Phone: 1800 373 982
Fax: 08 8307 3420

Southern Specialist Centre
Phone: 08 8307 3450
Fax: 08 8307 3460

COUNTRY CLINICS

Alice Springs Hospital
Phone: 08 8951 7870
Fax: 08 8953 4300

Goolwa
Phone: 1800 693 126
Fax: 08 555 6110

Port Augusta Hospital
Phone: 08 8642 5322
Fax: 08 8642 6255

Port Lincoln Hospital
Phone: 08 8683 2227
Fax: 08 8683 2090

Port Pirie Hospital
Phone: 08 8638 4519
Fax: 08 8638 4368

Victor Harbor
Phone: 08 8552 0590
Fax: 08 8552 0597

Walleroo District Hospital
Phone: 08 8823 0235
Fax: 08 8823 0232

Whyalla Hospital ✓
Phone: 08 8645 5486
Fax: 08 8645 5584

✓ Nuclear Medicine available at these clinics

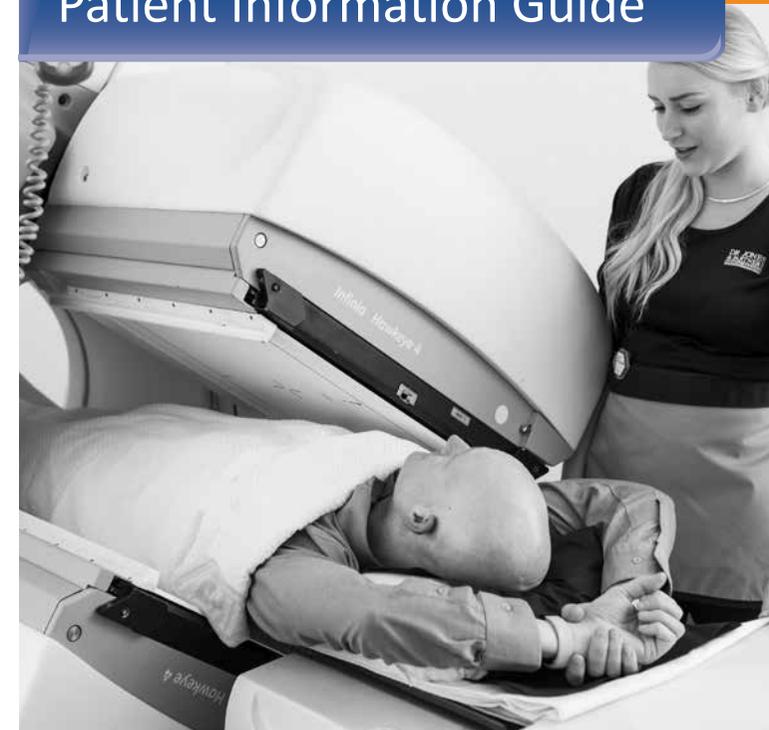
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Patient Information Guide



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What is Nuclear Medicine?

Nuclear Medicine is the branch of medical imaging that uses special radiopharmaceuticals to enable doctors to diagnose various conditions, and sometimes treat disease.

Radiopharmaceuticals are substances that are attracted to specific parts of the body, and highlight the way that certain organs function, rather than what they look or are shaped like.

Dr Jones & Partners Nuclear Medicine scanners have technology called SPECT/CT that combine a state of the art Nuclear Medicine camera with the ability to perform low dose CT. This allows fusion of structural and functional information in the one study and has greatly increased the diagnostic usefulness of this discipline.



Preparation for Nuclear Medicine?

In most cases no preparation is required. When you make your appointment the staff will discuss any preparation necessary.

If you are breast feeding, pregnant or possibly pregnant, you should ask to speak with the nuclear medicine technologist as this may influence the timing and type of test recommended.

In addition, certain drugs may alter the results of a test and may have to be stopped for a few days prior to the examination. This applies particularly to scanning of the heart, kidneys, stomach and bowel.

Again, this will be discussed at the time of making your appointment



What happens during Nuclear Medicine test?

During the procedure you will be given a small dose of radiopharmaceutical. The specific substance and the method of its delivery (whether it be by injection into a vein, through a breathing apparatus or by mouth) depends on which particular Nuclear Medicine test you are having. Most commonly it involves a small injection into a vein, like having a blood test. The substance administered will go to a specific organ or part of the body (e.g., kidneys or bone).

Sometime after administration of the radiopharmaceutical, a device called a gamma camera will be placed near your body next to the organ being examined to produce the images. The exact timing of this depends on the particular test. For example, the thyroid gland is scanned approximately 20 minutes after administration of the substance, whereas for a bone scan you will be asked to return between 2 to 4 hours after the injection, during which time the radiopharmaceutical will have been taken up by the bones. The actual scanning time will take approximately 45 minutes. Occasionally some tests may require returning on an additional day for images.

After the test

Most Nuclear Medicine tests have no ongoing considerations after you have completed the procedure. If you have a procedure where there is aftercare to follow, instructions will be given once the test has been completed.

