

Nuclear Medicine Patient Information

Cisternogram

Welcome to VCU Health Nuclear Medicine. We are located in the Gateway Building, 2nd floor, 1200 East Marshall Street. Our hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7 am to 5 pm. Advanced scheduling is required for all nuclear medicine exams. Please review the following information about your test. Please call (804) 828-6828 to schedule your test or if you have any questions about your nuclear medicine exam.

What is it?

Imaging of the fluid around your spine and brain (CSF: Cerebral Spinal Fluid).

Why are you having this test?

A test used to look for abnormalities in flow of the fluid around your spine and brain (CSF).

Preparing for the test

- You will be contacted by a Nuclear Medicine Nurse prior to your Nuclear Medicine Test for preparation instructions specific to you. *NOTE: There may be changes made to your medications prior to the test.*
- You will be *required* to bring a driver for the first day of your test.
- For the first day of the test, please bring a snack and your favorite drink.
- Bring a picture ID and insurance information.
- Bring with you a current list of medications (including Over the Counter, Herbal, Vitamins, Supplements, etc.) and current allergies.
- Please arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment.

What to expect during the test

- The test will take 2 – 4 days.

- A needle will be placed into your lower back or spine (lumbar puncture).
- A radioactive tracer will be administered through the needle so we can take pictures of your spine and head.
- You will be here 6 – 8 hours on the first day of testing. Days 2 - 4 will take about 30 – 45 minutes.
- You will lie down while the camera takes pictures of your head, neck and back.
- The images will be checked for quality by our Physician and more pictures may be needed.

After Care Information

- You will go over instruction or guidelines specific to you by a Nuclear Medicine Nurse and/or Physician prior to the end of your test.

Contact information if questions or concerns

- Any Questions: Please contact us at (804) 828-6828 and ask to speak to a Nuclear Medicine Nurse. After hours, please call (804) 828-3699.

Follow-Up Care after the procedure

- Results will be available in 1-2 business days.
- For Results: Please contact the Physician that ordered your test.