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.