

Nuclear Medicine Patient Information

Gallium Imaging

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 to detect certain types of infection, certain inflammatory diseases or tumors.

Why are you having this test?

A gallium scan is done to:

- Detect the source of an infection that is causing a fever (called a fever of unknown origin).
- Detect an abscess or certain infections, especially in the bones.
- Diagnose inflammatory conditions such as pulmonary fibrosis or sarcoidosis.
- Detect certain types of cancer (such as lymphoma) or to see if cancer has spread (metastasized) to other areas of the body, or to watch how well a cancer treatment is working.

Preparing for the test

- No patient preparation.
- Take your medications as prescribed.
- 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 - 3 days.

Day 1

- A needle (IV) will be placed in a vein (intravenous catheter).
- A radioactive tracer will be administered through the IV.
- You may go on with normal activities in between the injection and scan (eat and drink as normal).

Day 2 (48 hours after injection)

- You will lie down while the camera takes pictures of your whole body and possibly a SPECT (360 degree picture of your body) for 1 – 2 hours.
- The images will be checked for quality by our Physician and more pictures may be needed.

Day 3 (72 hours after injection)

- You will lie down while the camera takes pictures of your whole body and possibly a SPECT (360 degree picture of your body) for 1 – 2 hours.
- The images will be checked for quality by our Physician and more pictures may be needed.

After Care Information

- You may return to all your normal activities.
- Most of the radioactive tracer leaves your body through your urine. Drinking extra fluids may help the tracer leave your body faster.

Contact information if questions or concerns

- Any Questions: Please contact us at (804) 828-6828 and ask to speak to a Nuclear Medicine Technologist. 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