

Nuclear Medicine Patient Information

Octreotide 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 of tumors bearing somatostatin receptors.

3. Why are you having this test?

An Octreotide scan is used for localization of primary and metastatic neuroendocrine tumors bearing somatostatin receptors. Neuroendocrine relates to the interaction between the nervous system and the glands that produce the hormones (endocrine system). This may include, but not limited to: carcinoid tumors, neuroendocrine tumors.

4. 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.

5. 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.
- An image will be taken 4 hours after your injection.
- You may go on with normal activities in between the injection and scan (eat and drink as normal).
- You will lie down while the camera takes pictures of your whole body for 30 minutes.
- The images will be checked for quality by our Physician and more pictures may be needed.

Day 2 - 3

- 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.