

## What is Nuclear Medicine?

*Nuclear Medicine is a medical specialty that uses small amounts of radioactive materials and a special camera to provide unique information about both the structure and function of nearly every human organ. Scans are non-invasive.*

*\*This is not an order.*

### Your Nuclear Medicine Exam Type:

**(Note: Estimated length of exam is indicated in parenthesis.)**

- Total Body and/or Limited Bone Scan**  
Length of Exam: Injection - 30 min.; Scan - 60 min. (3-4 hours after injection)  
*\*Special Instructions: Requires a negative pregnancy test.*
- Bone Scan**  
Length of Exam: Draw blood immediately, return 2-3 hours later for blood with radioisotopes injection, return 3-4 hours later for imaging for 30-60 min.
- 3 Phase Bone Scan**  
Length of Exam: Injection and imaging immediately for 30 min. (return 3-4 hours after injection)
- Bone Scan Spect (710)**  
Length of Exam: Injection - 5 min.; Scan - 90 min. (3 hours after injection)
- Cisternography\***  
Length of Exam: 1st day - Injection, followed by 60 min. scan 3-4 hours later; 2nd day Scan - 60 min.; 3rd day Scan - 60 min.; 4th day Scan - 60 min.  
*\*Special Instructions: Signed patient consent is required. Patient should remain lying on back for 3-4 hours following lumbar puncture.*
- Gallium**  
Length of Exam: 1st day Injection - 5 min.; 2nd day Scan - 60 min.; 3rd day Scan - 60 min.; 4th day Scan - 60 min.
- Gastric Emptying\***  
Length of Exam: 2-4 hours  
*\*Special Instructions: Nothing to eat or drink for eight (8) hours prior to exam. No calcium tablets or supplements, TUMS, or Maalox for 24 hours prior to exam. Patient will be required to eat eggs for exam. If allergic or patient does not eat eggs, an alternative will need to be used.*
- Gastric Reflux\***  
Length of Exam: 180 min.  
*\*Special Instructions: Nothing to eat or drink for eight (8) hours prior to exam.*
- GI Blood Loss**  
Length of Exam: 120 min.
- Hepatobiliary Scan (HIDA)\***  
Length of Exam: 60 min. up to 4 hours  
*\*Special Instructions: Nothing to eat or drink for four (4) hours prior to exam. NO prescribed pain medication for 6-8 hours before exam.*
- Indium WBC**  
Length of Exam: 1st day blood withdrawal - 30 min.; return 2-3 hours later for blood and isotopes injection; 2nd day scan only for 60 min.
- Liver Spleen Scan**  
Length of Exam: 60 min.
- Lung VQ Scan**  
Length of Exam: 60 min.
- Myocardial Spect Multi (Nuclear Stress Test)\***  
Length of Exam: 2-3 hours  
*\*Special Instructions: Nothing to eat or drink after midnight. NO caffeine for 24 hours prior to exam. Signed patient consent is required. Certain medications may have to be held.*
- Parathyroid**  
Exam Length: No prep, Part 1 Injection and immediate scan 30-45 min.; return 2.5-3 hours later, scan 30-60 min.
- Parotid Scan\***  
Length of Exam: 60 min.  
*\*Special Instructions: Liquids ONLY for four (4) hours before exam.*
- PET\***  
Length of Exam: up to 120 min.  
*\*Special Instructions: The technologist will call prior to the exam to give you the prep.*
- Red Blood Cell Tag Scan for Hemangioma**  
Length of Exam: 60 min.
- Renal Scan Captopril (712)\***  
Length of Exam: 180 min.  
*\*Special Instructions: Patient should drink 8-12 oz. of water 30 min. prior to exam. No Ace Inhibitors for 24 hours before exam.*
- Renal Scan Lasix Washout\***  
Length of Exam: 120 min.  
*\*Special Instructions: Patient should drink 8-12 oz. of fluid before arriving and discontinue diuretic for 24 hours prior to exam.*
- Renal Transplant Evaluation\***  
Length of Exam: 120 min.  
*\*Special Instructions: Patient should drink 8-12 oz. of fluid before arriving.*
- Renogram (Isotope Renal)**  
Length of Exam: 60 min.
- Resting Thallium\***  
Length of Exam: up to 3 hours  
*\*Special Instructions: Nothing to eat or drink after midnight. NO caffeine for 48 hours prior to exam.*
- Sentinel Node BX\***  
Length of Exam: 120 min.  
*\*Special Instructions: Nothing to eat or drink after midnight.*
- Shunt Evaluation**  
Length of Exam: 60 min.
- Thyroid I-123 & I-131 Scan & Uptake\***
- I-131 Scan (Total Body)\***
- I-131 Therapy & Treatment**
- Thyroid Ablation Hyperthyroid\***  
Length of Exam: 60 min.  
*\*Special Instructions: Discontinue Thyroid Hormone (Synthroid, Desiccated Thyroid, Levothyroxine) 4 weeks prior to exam. Discontinue AntiThyroid medication (Cytomel, Tapazol, PTU) 1 week prior to exam. Discontinue X-ray contrast such as CT, Cardiac Cath, IVR, etc. 4-6 weeks prior to exam. Discontinue Myelogram 1 week prior to exam. Discontinue Salpingography 4 weeks prior to exam. Discontinue Amiodarone, Kelp, Fish Oil, Boost, Ensure 1 Week prior to exam. Discontinue Shell Fish (Lobster, Crabs, Shrimp etc.) 24 hours prior to exam. Discontinue Multivitamins 1 weeks prior to exam. Discontinue Potassium Iodine Pills, topical Iodine Ointments/suppositories 2-4 weeks prior to exam. Discontinue Steroids (Ingestest, iv, ointment), Estrogens, oral contraceptives 1 week prior to exam. Nothing to eat or drink after midnight. No CT scans with contrast within 8 weeks. Negative pregnancy test and signed patient consent required.*
- Urea Breath Test (C-14)\***  
Length of Exam: 60 min.  
*\*Special Instructions: Discontinue Sucralfate, Carafate, Prevacid, Zegerid, Mxiem, Kapidex, Prilosec, Protonix, Dexilant and similar medications for two (2) weeks prior to exam. Discontinue Pepto Bismol, luopectate, bismatrol, antibiotic and similar for one (1) month prior to exam. Negative pregnancy test required 6 hours prior to exam. Avoid brushing teeth prior to test.*

Centralized Scheduling  
314-768-2500

SSM Health Cardinal Glennon  
Children's Hospital scheduling  
314-577-5652

SSM Health Saint Louis University  
Hospital scheduling: 314-257-5555