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- > a network of conveniently located community and hospital based locations
- > caring, helpful and professional staff
- > state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment
- > over 60 specialist radiologists, trained to provide you with accurate and reliable results
- > world class digital networking between clinics provides the benefits of second opinions from specialist radiologists, no matter which clinic you attend.

You can now request an appointment online via our website and our staff will call you back to confirm your appointment, please visit our website:

www.perthradclinic.com.au

An appointment has been made for you

Clinic _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Time _____

Date _____



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A GUIDE FOR PATIENTS

Nuclear Medicine

For information regarding your appointment,
please see the back of this leaflet.

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What is Nuclear Medicine?

Nuclear Medicine is an area of medicine that uses very small amounts of radioactive materials, or radiopharmaceuticals, to diagnose and sometimes treat disease.

Radiopharmaceuticals are substances that are attracted to specific parts of the body. These substances emit radiation that is detected by a special camera.

Why Nuclear Medicine?

This speciality records information regarding organ function and structure and can detect conditions earlier than other tests permitting earlier treatment. Nuclear Medicine offers procedures on all major organs. For example: bones, lungs, kidneys, heart and brain.

Exam Type - Bone Scan

No preparation is needed. The test is performed in two parts. The first part will take approximately 20 minutes: you will be given an injection and some images may be taken. The second part of this test is usually performed 2-5 hours later and will take up to 1 ¼ hours.

Exam Type - Lung Scan

No preparation is needed. The lung scan is divided into two parts. The ventilation study assesses the air flow into the lungs. The perfusion study assesses the circulation to the lungs. The whole test will take 1 hour.

Thyroid Scan

No preparation is needed however:-

1. You must not have taken thyroxine tablets, kelp, or iodine (e.g. in multi-vitamin and mineral preparations), in the last 6 weeks.

2. You must not have had an x-ray test involving injections of dye (contrast media) in the last 6 weeks.
3. If you are currently taking thyroid medication, please contact the nuclear medicine staff prior to the test.

The test will take approximately 1 hour.

Exam Type - Heart Studies

1. Do not eat, drink or smoke 4 hours before the test.
2. No tea, coffee, chocolate, cocoa, cola or other caffeine products 24 hours prior to the examination.
3. Take your medications as usual on the morning of the test unless instructed not to do so by your doctor or the nuclear medicine department.
4. If you are scheduled for an exercise test, wear appropriate clothing for walking or running.
5. Leave your jewellery at home.
6. If you suffer from diabetes, please inform us and bring your blood glucose meter.

This test aims to assess the blood supply to the heart. The exercise stress test is performed on a treadmill or stationary bicycle. For those unable to exercise, an injection of a drug called Dipyridamole is used.

Exam Type - Kidney Scans

No preparation needed. There are several different types of tests for the kidney which will take approximately 1-2 hours. If you are booked for a Renal Captopril scan, you have to fast for 4 hours. A DMSA test will require 2 visits on the same day.



Gallium

The Gallium is injected into a vein on the back of the hand or inside the elbow. You will be given a time to return, usually 48 hours later. The Gallium scan will take between 1 and 2 hours.

Are there any precautions?

Either you or your doctor must advise us if there is any possibility that you may be pregnant. We should also be informed if you are breast feeding. In most cases, the injections will have no side effects.

If you are caring for small children on the day of your test, you should take care to avoid close contact for prolonged periods of time.

Cancellation

Every patient has an individual radio-isotope dose ordered and prepared. This is a high cost item. We do need early advice of cancellation to stop the preparation of the radio-isotope dose, otherwise this cost may be passed onto the patient.

Please bring any previous imaging with you on the day of your examination. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask us!