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GATED BLOOD POOL STUDY
(MUGA SCAN)
Nuclear Medicine
Patient Information Leaflet

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What is a Muga scan?

It is a test in which a small amount of a mildly Radioactive substance is used to obtain pictures of the blood travelling through the chambers of your heart. As a computer is used to take these pictures, along with a Gamma camera, it is possible to run these pictures as a film and watch the movement, i.e. the beating of the heart. This allows us to assess how well the heart is working as a pump.

What is involved?

On arrival you will need to undress to the waist and put on a gown. A small needle will be inserted into a vein in your arm and ECG electrodes will be put on your chest. You will lie on a couch on your back and the ECG signals will be fed into the computer.

Two injections will be given, the first one sticks to the blood cells and the second, which is given 20 minutes later, sticks to this. This allows the camera to see the blood as it passes through the heart. Two pictures will then be taken from different positions above you, with you lying on the couch. This will take about 20 minutes. When these are completed you will be free to go home.

Do I need to prepare for the test?

No preparation is required, but it is advisable to only have a light breakfast and drink before attending for the test.

Are there any after effects?

No, but you will be radioactive for about 24 hours so please avoid any unnecessary close contact with children or pregnant ladies. For ladies of child bearing age please contact us if the appointment does not fall within 28 days after the start of a period, unless you have been sterilised or had a hysterectomy. If you are currently breast feeding please contact us for advice. You will be able to drive and eat and drink normally after the test.

How do I get the Results?

The results will be sent to your hospital consultant, you should be sent an appointment to see your Consultant in the clinic to discuss these results, if you do not have a follow up appointment or you do not hear anything within 1 month please contact the consultant's secretary via the hospital switchboard. If you were sent by your GP, your results will be sent back to them within 2 weeks.

In Radiology Departments, every effort is made to keep radiation doses low. The radiation doses from X-Ray examinations or Isotope Scans are small in relation to those we receive from natural background radiation ranging from the equivalent of a few days worth to a few years. You should make your doctor aware of any other recent X-Rays or scans you may have had, in case they make further examinations unnecessary.

Should you have any queries regarding your examination or should the appointment date prove inconvenient please do not hesitate to contact us on 01384 456111 ext: 2335.