

Brain scan

What is nuclear medicine?

Nuclear medicine is an imaging modality which uses radioactive tracers to image physiological processes in the body. This allows for functional assessment and imaging of a wide range of systems and organs.

What is a brain scan?

A brain scan is a test to demonstrate the blood flow to the brain.

What preparation is required?

You **must not** have anything containing caffeine (no coffee, tea, or chocolate) and you must not smoke or drink alcohol for 24 hours before the test.

What is involved?

Upon arrival, a cannula will be inserted into a vein in your arm. You will be asked to remain still in a quiet darkened room for 20 minutes, a radioactive tracer will then be administered through the cannula. After 15 minutes you will be asked to lie very still in a head rest while our camera rotates around your head for 20 minutes.

It is very important you remain completely still during this time. If you think you are unable to remain still please contact the nuclear medicine department as we may need to make additional arrangements.

Are there any side effects?

You will not feel any different following the injection. You will be able to continue with your usual daily activities. The amount of radioactivity is very small.

However, it is advised to limit time spent in close contact (less than one metre) with anyone pregnant or children under five years for 24 hours after this test.

How long will this take?

The test usually takes about two hours.

How do I get my results?

Digital images are immediately available to your doctor and your records will be kept permanently. This occurs through a system called PACS. **A report is available within 24 hours.**

If your referring doctor wants to see you on the day of your examination, please advise the reception staff when you arrive for your appointment, so the appropriate information can be made available to your doctor.

How much will this cost?

Please ask reception staff of the cost involved at the time of booking your appointment.

Important

It is important to let us know when you make your booking if you are or think you may be pregnant or are breastfeeding.

It is important to bring with you your referral, previous x-rays and any other tests (only if previous ones were **not** done at Cabrini or I-MED).

Questions

For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Cabrini Medical Imaging using the number below.