

Medical Imaging patient information

Nuclear Medicine

HMPAO Scan

What is a HMPAO scan?

A HMPAO scan is a test that demonstrates 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. If you have had CT or MRI scans please bring them with you if these scans were not done at Cabrini or MIA.

What is involved?

You will be asked to lie quietly with your eyes closed for 15 minutes to relax. You will then be given an IV injection of a radioactive tracer and have some images taken.

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.

How long will this take?

The test usually takes about 2 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. **If a priority report is requested it will be issued within two hours and faxed or emailed to your doctor, however this can sometimes take up to 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 for you to take to your doctor.

Please note:

If you are or think you may be pregnant or if you are breast-feeding, please tell the Nuclear Medicine Staff when you make your booking for the test. It is important to bring with you your referral, previous X-rays or Nuclear Medicine tests (only if previous ones were **not** done at Cabrini or MIA).

For an appointment or if you have any questions about the test please call **9508 1429**