

Medical Imaging patient information

Nuclear Medicine Oncology Gallium Scan

What is an Oncology Gallium Scan?

Some conditions show a concentration of gallium. This gallium is detected using a nuclear medicine camera. The results of the scan will enable your doctor to decide on the appropriate treatment.

What preparation is required?

No specific preparation is required for a gallium scan. You can eat and drink normally before the test.

What is involved?

The test involves three appointments.

- 1) On your first appointment you will be given an Intravenous (IV) injection of gallium and may be given laxatives to take when you get home.
- 2) The second appointment will be 2 days after the injection when images will be taken.
- 3) The third appointment will be 3 days after the injection when further images will be taken.
- 4) You might be required to take laxatives.

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. If you are required to take laxatives you will empty your bowels more frequently than normal which might result in watery bowel motions. **It is important to keep well hydrated in this case.**

How long will this take?

There are three appointments spread over 3 days with a potential for a fourth day. The first appointment will take about 30 minutes. The second and third appointments will take about 90 minutes each.

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**
