

Parathyroid 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 parathyroid scan?

A parathyroid scan is a test that is used to detect parathyroid adenomas. A parathyroid scan involves an injection of a radioactive tracer that is absorbed by overactive parathyroid glands.

What preparation is required?

No preparation is required, however please inform the nuclear medicine staff if you are taking any thyroid medications. You should continue your medication as instructed by your doctor and eat and drink normally prior to the test.

What is involved?

This test has several parts:

- 1) A cannula will be placed in a vein in your arm. This will be used to administer a small amount of a radioactive tracer that goes to your thyroid gland, after which an image will be performed. This allows distinction of the thyroid from parathyroid adenomas.
- 2) A second injection will be given via the cannula and some images taken of the neck immediately and then after 30 minutes.
- 3) You will then be asked to return to the nuclear medicine department at a time approximately 2-3 hours later, and some more images will be performed. You will not have any more injections. This part of the test takes about 30 minutes.
- 4) An ultrasound will then be performed after the parathyroid scan to further investigate the parathyroid glands.

Are there any side effects?

Most people do not feel any different following the injection.

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 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 MIA).

Questions

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