

PATIENT INFORMATION

Patient's Name: _____

You have an appointment in the Nuclear Medicine Department on:

Date: _____ **Time:** _____

Please arrive 10 minutes early. This gives you time to check in. Please bring with you photo identification and your BC CareCard (personal health number).

Please do not bring your children with you unless you bring someone to care for them while you are having the test.

If you are not able to keep your appointment, please call **604-806-8008** as soon as possible. Please give us at least 24 hours notice so we can use your time for someone else. When you call, we will give you another date and time for your test.

Things you need to know

Why am I having this test?

This test looks at how well your lymphatic (pronounced lim-fat-ic) system is working. Your lymphatic system has an important role in keeping your body healthy. It is a network of small channels (like your blood stream) that circulates a fluid throughout your body, collecting bacteria, viruses and waste products. This network also includes lymph (lim-f) nodes where infection-fighting cells live. These cells help filter out the wastes from your body.

When one of the channels gets inflamed or blocked, it causes swelling and a back up in the fluid flow. This is called lymphedema (lim-fa-dee-ma). Swelling most often happens in arms or legs.

What do I need to do before the test?

★ Are you allergic to latex? Pregnant? Breastfeeding? Please tell us★

You do not need to do anything special to prepare for this test. You may eat and drink as usual and take your medicines.

Plan on being here for about 3 ½ hours.

What happens during the test?

Depending on where the swelling is (arm or leg), we use a needle to inject a small amount of radioactive material called a 'tracer' into a space between two fingers or toes.

We then take a series of pictures or images of the tracer as it flows up your arm or leg over 3 hours. We take images at timed intervals after we inject the tracer: at 5 minutes, at 30 minutes, at 60 minutes, at 90 minutes, and at 3 hours. You may sit in our waiting area or leave the department between these times.



How you want to be treated.

What can I expect after my test?

There are no side effects.

We send your test results to your doctor within 5 working days after the test is completed. If your doctor does not have your results within two weeks, please ask your doctor to contact us.

If you are planning to travel within 72 hours of this test, please tell the Nuclear Medicine receptionist. We will give you a letter that says you have been given a small amount of radioactivity for this test.