

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?

Your doctor wants to check the blood supply to your brain and how the blood flows in and around your brain. Diseases such as stroke, epilepsy and dementia can change how blood flows in the brain.

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.

What happens during the test?

In order to see your brain clearly, we need to give you a radioactive material called a 'tracer'. We give the tracer into a vein in one of your hands or arms. To do this, we will insert a small flexible tube into your vein using a needle. This is called an intravenous injection (*intra* meaning 'into' and *venous* meaning 'vein', commonly called an IV). We remove the intravenous once we finish injecting the tracer. Once injected, the tracer travels through your bloodstream into the blood vessels in the brain. This part of the test takes about 15 minutes.

While we wait for the tracer to move through your body, you may leave the department if you wish, but you **must return** for the main part of the test. We need you to come back 30-60 minutes after the injection.

For the main part of the test, we take pictures or images of your brain. Depending on how many images we need to take, this can take up to one (1) hour.



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 one month 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.