

**GRAVES GILBERT CLINIC X-RAY DEPARTMENT
INSTRUCTIONS FOR NUCLEAR MEDICINE STUDIES**

Test: Nuclear Medicine studies require the use of radioactive materials to diagnose and treat certain medical conditions. You will be given a dose of radioactive compound which is injected, swallowed or inhaled. Reactions to these compounds are very rare. After ingestion of this material, a camera will be used to take images of the area of your body of interest. This study should not be done on women who could be pregnant or who are breast feeding. For nuclear medicine studies, please check with the 3rd floor receptionist.

Purpose: The purpose of the test is to diagnose abnormalities in the bones, liver, soft tissues, gallbladder, kidneys, thyroid, heart, or the lungs predominantly. These agents can also be used to detect abnormal masses or abscesses in the patient.

For some studies the camera is used immediately after you have received your dose of radioactive material. In other cases there may be a delay of several hours or even 24 hours before the camera is used and the study completed. You will be given additional times to return. Scans can take as little as 30 minutes or as long as 4 hours depending upon which examination is being done.

Preparation:

Cardiac Studies- For cardiac studies you will be given special instructions.

Thyroid Studies- For thyroid scans and uptakes you should have nothing by mouth except water for four hours prior to the test. Do not take multi-vitamins within 24 hours prior to test.

For thyroid examinations it is important that you not have had any contrast material or x-ray dye recently. If you have this should be mentioned to the technologist prior to your study.

Kidney Studies- For kidney examinations and kidney studies with special attention for high blood pressure you will be given specific instructions regarding preparation.

Hepatobiliary- For hepatobiliary studies you should have nothing by mouth including smoking or gum after midnight the night before the test.

Bone Scans- No preparation is required.

Gallium Scans- No preparation is required.

Liver/Spleen Scans- No preparation is required.

Your test is scheduled for _____ o'clock on the _____ day of _____.