

DaTscan

What to expect at arrival:

Please arrive 30 minutes prior to the appointment. The first place to go after arriving is admissions. The physician's office should have provided a written order to the patient. Please take the order to admissions for registration. After checking in, the next stop will be the Radiology desk. The exam should start quickly from the scheduled time. Since Northeast Georgia is a major medical center there are emergencies that could arise that might extend wait time. Please try to be patient and be assured that we will begin your procedure as quickly as possible.

What is Nuclear Medicine?

Nuclear Medicine is a radiology modality that uses radiopharmaceuticals to image the body's anatomy and physiology. The images are obtained after an intravenous injection or an oral administration of the radioactive pharmaceutical. Depending on the study, the images can take 20 to 30 minutes or could take a few hours or multiple days, depending on the study. The radiation from the pharmaceuticals is minimal.

Patient Prep:

There are no restrictions or preparations prior to a DaTscan. The patient can eat, drink and take medications prior to the injection and after the injection before images are taken. **Please let the technologist know if there is any possibility that you may be pregnant.**

Your DATSCAN:

When you are brought to the Nuclear Medicine department, a technologist will verify the orders and patient identification. A technologist will ask a series of questions and explain the procedure. You will be given SSKI (supersaturated potassium iodide) in 4 ounces of water or juice. This SSKI is used to block your thyroid from receiving any of the radioactive pharmaceutical. After one hour of the SSKI being in your system an IV will be started in the arm and the DaTscan pharmaceutical will be injected. Images will be taken at 3-4 hours after the injection. Imaging will take about 30-40min and will be a image of the brain only with the camera rotating around your head to get a SPECT or 3D reconstruction of the area of the brain we are looking at. This scan is only used in the diagnosis of Parkinson's disease.

Recovery/Home:

There are no restrictions after the exam. Continue normal activity. The radiologist will interpret the exam and send the results to your physician's office.



Northeast Georgia Health System • Imaging Services • www.nghs.com/Imaging

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Imaging Center Braselton
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Patient Information