

MUGA (Multi-Gated Acquisition) Scan

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 preparation for a MUGA. The patient can eat, drink and take medications prior to the injection. Please let the technologist know if there is any possibility that you may be pregnant.

Your MUGA Scan:

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. An IV will be started in the arm and blood will be drawn from the IV. The blood will be tagged with radioactive imaging agent in the hot lab at the hospital for about 30 minutes. After the blood is prepared, the patient will be re-injected through the IV. The patient will be positioned on the imaging table and a three-lead EKG will be put in place. Images will be taken for about 20-30 minutes. The camera will be positioned over the chest and will be silent while pictures are taken.

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.

Patient Information



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

Imaging Center Gainesville
770-219-8035

Imaging Center Braselton
770-848-6150

NGMC Main Campus
770-219-1300