

Parathyroid/Sestamibi Scan

Patient Information

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 Parathyroid Scan. 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 Parathyroid 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. There will be a small intravenous injection given prior to any images. The injection has a small amount of radioactive material that allows images of the parathyroid to be taken. The injection has no known side effects. Once the injection is given, you will wait about 20 minutes to let the injection circulate throughout the body. The technologist will position the patient on the table and begin imaging. There will be an initial set of images taking about 15 minutes followed by an initial SPECT images going all the way around the patients neck/parathyroid. After the initial images there will be a 2-3 hr delay before a second set of images are taken same as the initial images for comparison.

Recovery/Home:

There are no restrictions after the Parathyroid Scan. 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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