



What to Expect During a MUGA Scan

Your physician has ordered a MUGA Scan and you may be wondering what to expect. The below information will provide you with an overview of the test and hopefully answer any questions you may have and reduce any feelings of anxiety you may have as well.

What is a MUGA Scan?

A MUGA Scan is a diagnostic test using a radioactive tracer along with a special camera to take pictures of your heart as it pumps blood. The test measures your ejection fraction, which is the amount of blood pumped out of the heart during each heartbeat or contraction of the heart.

Why did my doctor order this test?

Cardiologists order these tests for patients to measure how well the heart is pumping with every heartbeat. The test helps your doctor to know why you may be experiencing chest pain, having trouble breathing, dizziness, or feeling tired.

How long will the test take and can I bring someone with me?

The test will take about an hour but may last up to two hours. During COVID-19 we must limit guests in our office and have limited waiting space during the test. It is preferred that you do not bring a guest unless medically necessary for support or translation assistance for this reason.

Are there any special instructions for this test?

If you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant, you should tell your doctor prior to having this test. Your doctor will advise you if any special instructions will be necessary leading up to the test. Please let our staff know prior to the day of your test if you have any questions or concerns. We are happy to help make sure you understand and have your questions answered.

What will happen on the day of my appointment?

You will check-in for your test downstairs in suite 100. A member of our nuclear testing team will then escort you to the nuclear testing area and will explain the test in more detail. During the scan you will have electrodes placed on your chest, arms, and legs. This will allow the team to track your heartbeat during the test. You will be given an IV and will lie on a special table while a camera takes several pictures of your heart while you rest.

Our friendly, experienced, and knowledgeable staff are happy to answer any questions or address any concerns you have throughout your test in our office. Please do not hesitate to ask, we love to educate!