

Nuclear Medicine



What is a Nuclear Medicine scan?

A nuclear medicine scan uses a camera that takes pictures of the inside of your body. It takes pictures of different parts of your body like your heart, kidneys, lungs, bones, or liver.

Getting ready for your Nuclear Medicine scan

You can bring a special toy like a teddy bear or blanket and a movie (VHS) with you from home to watch during your pictures. Your family will also be able to stay in the room with you.

Depending on how old you are, you might get some medicine that will help you feel sleepy during the pictures. (*Parents-* If your child will be

receiving anesthesia, special instructions will be given at the time of scheduling.)

What will happen during the Nuclear Medicine scan?

When you come into the nuclear medicine room you will see the scanner, it looks like a machine, but it's just a big camera. The room is decorated like a jungle, look for the lion hiding behind the tree. To help with the pictures we use liquid called a "tracer". The liquid looks like water. There are three different ways for us to have the liquid "tracer" get inside your body. We will use only one way for you. The part of your body we are doing pictures of will decide which way we use. If you are having pictures of your stomach the liquid will be mixed in something you will eat or drink. You can't even taste it. If you are having pictures of your bladder (the place inside your body where your "pee" is) we will have the liquid go into your bladder through a small tube called a "catheter". For any other pictures the liquid will go into your vein; those are the blue lines you can see on the top of your hands. You will feel a pinch when the liquid goes into your vein, but it will be done fast.

You might do your pictures right away, a few hours after getting the liquid in your vein, or even the next day depending on what part of your body we are doing pictures of. For most pictures you lay on a bed and the bed slides under the camera. The camera will move close to your body but will not touch you. If you are having pictures of your bladder you will sit up on a special chair for the pictures. The most important job you have is to hold **really still**. There are soft seat belts to help you do this so the pictures of your body are not blurry. The pictures last as long as your favorite TV show or as long as your favorite movie (30-90 minutes). After the pictures are done you are ready to go home with your family. (*Parents-*Children receiving anesthesia will require additional "wake up" time before going home.)

Note to parents: *There are many variations of nuclear medicine scans, please ask any additional questions specific to your child's scan at the time of scheduling.*