

Diamox Brain SPECT

PATIENT INFORMATION - What You Need to Know

DESCRIPTION OF EXAM

A brain SPECT is a Nuclear Medicine imaging procedure that allows a Radiologist to assess brain perfusion at rest and at stress (Diamox).

PREPARING FOR YOUR EXAM - What to do before your exam:

Patient can eat and drink (no coffee or stimulating drinks) before exam. Patient can take any medication that they need. Patient should not be pregnant. If patient is breastfeeding please notify technologist at the time of exam. Wear comfortable clothing and avoid wearing jewelry and metallic objects in the area that will be examined. Arrive 30 minutes before your scheduled exam time to allow for registration.

DURING THE EXAM

Day 1 - Patient will receive an intravenous injection (in a quiet, dimly lit room) with a radioactive tracer that goes to the brain. The patient then waits 1 hour for the material to circulate. Images are taken and last about 30 minutes. Patient must lie flat and still for images, while the camera rotates in a circular motion around their head.

Day 2 - (48hrs later) patient returns for the Diamox portion of the scan. Patient gets injected with Diamox and waits 15 minutes for it to circulate. Patient then gets injected (in a quiet, dimly lit room) with a radioactive tracer that goes to the brain. The patient then waits for 1 hour for the material to circulate. Images are taken and last about 30 minutes. Patient must lie flat and still for images, while the camera rotates in a circular motion around their head.

AFTER YOUR EXAM

Drink plenty of fluids after your exam to help wash out the radioactive tracer from the body more quickly. There are no side effects from the radioactive tracer. The amount of radioactivity you receive is very small amount and is not harmful to you or anyone else. If breastfeeding it is recommended to pump milk and discard for 24 hours after exam.