

Lung Scan

PATIENT INFORMATION - What You Need to Know

DESCRIPTION OF EXAM

A Lung Scan (V/Q) is a Nuclear Medicine imaging procedure that allows a Radiologist to assess the airflow (Ventilation) and the blood flow (Perfusion) in the lungs. It is primarily used to look for evidence of any blood clots in the lungs, known as pulmonary embolism.

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

Patients can eat and drink before exam and can take any medication that they need. Patient must have a chest X-ray performed within 48 hours of the scan. Patient should not be pregnant. If patient is breastfeeding please notify the technologist at the time of exam. Wear comfortable clothing and avoid wearing jewelry and metallic objects. Arrive 30 minutes before your scheduled exam time to allow for registration.

DURING THE EXAM

Patient will lie flat on a table. A mask will be placed over their nose and mouth and the patient will breathe in a radioactive gas and oxygen. The mask will stay on the patient's face for about 5 minutes and imaging will continue for 7 minutes. Once the mask is removed, it is important for the patient to lie still. Once the ventilation images are completed, the patient will then get injected with another radioactive tracer that shows the blood flow to the lungs. 6 images will then be taken; each image is about 5 minutes. The patient must hold still for this set of images also. The camera will be positioned underneath the patient most of the time. During the perfusion images the camera will also be positioned above the patient. The total scan takes about 45 minutes.

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 a very small amount and is not harmful to you or anyone else. If breastfeeding, it is recommended to pump milk and discard for 13 hours after exam.