

MIBG Scan

PATIENT INFORMATION - What You Need to Know

DESCRIPTION OF EXAM

A MIBG Scan is a Nuclear Medicine imaging procedure that allows a radiologist to locate or confirm the presence of pheochromocytomas and neuroblastomas.

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

All patients should receive Lugol's solution, SSKI, or Potassium iodide oral solution from their referring physician. Patient should begin taking medication 48 hours prior to I-123 MIBG injection and continue for 5 days (except when patient is allergic to iodine).

On the injection day and the exam day the patient can eat and drink beforehand. Patient can take any medication that they need (unless instructed to stop certain medications by their referring physician). 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. Arrive 30 minutes before your scheduled exam time to allow for registration. Children may bring movies to watch during the length of the exam.

DURING THE EXAM

Patient will come to the nuclear medicine department in the afternoon the day before their exam to receive a radioactive injection. The patient returns to the nuclear medicine department the next morning for images. Patient must lie flat and still for the entire exam. There are 2 cameras that get close to the patient, one above and below. Two sets of images will be taken. The first set of images consists of the whole body (head to toe), with a few angled views to follow. The second part of the exam will consist of a SPECT/CT where the patient will have the camera rotate in a circular motion around their body for about a half hour. The patient then will move into a tube like enclosure for a 2 minute CT scan. On certain occasions, a second SPECT/CT will be performed if requested by the radiologist (this will extend the scan time by 30 minutes). The total scan length is about 1.5 to 2 hours.

AFTER YOUR EXAM

Drink plenty of fluids after your exam to help wash out the radioactive tracer from your body more quickly. There are no side effects from the radioactive tracer, and the amount of radioactivity you received is a very small amount that is not harmful to you or anyone else. If breastfeeding, it is recommended to pump milk and discard for 48 hours after exam.