



GUIDE



Octreotide study



The Ottawa Hospital | L'Hôpital
d'Ottawa



Disclaimer

This is general information developed by The Ottawa Hospital. It is not intended to replace the advice of a qualified health-care provider. Please consult your own health-care provider who will be able to determine if this information is appropriate for your specific situation.

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Your doctor has requested an Octreotide study. This booklet will answer some of the questions you may have.

What is an Octreotide study?

An Octreotide study is used to detect specific types of tissue within the body that may be causing problems for you. Please speak to your physician if you have additional questions regarding why he would like this test performed.

Do I need to prepare for the study?

Certain medications may interfere with this test. The clerk booking your procedure will ask you for a complete list of medications that you are taking. You should also bring this list of medications to your first appointment. You may eat and drink as usual before this test.

What is involved?

When you arrive in the Nuclear Medicine department, a technologist will explain the entire procedure to you and then ask you if you have any questions. There are typically three visits to the Nuclear Medicine department in order to complete this test. The first visit will take only a few minutes to complete, but please expect the remaining visits to take up to 90 minutes each. On your first visit a small injection of a radioactive tracer will be injected into vein in your arm. There are no side effects from this injection. Once the injection has been completed, you will be able to leave the department and return in four to six hours for your first set of images. When you return for your second visit, a technologist will ask you to remove any metal objects from your body and to lie on an imaging table. The technologist will then bring a special camera called a gamma

camera close to you and take a series of pictures of your body. These images will be shown to a specially trained physician, who will determine if more images are required. If needed, the technologist will take another set of images called a SPECT/CT study. This study will make use of Nuclear Medicine images and CT images to provide additional information to the physician. You will then be scheduled to return the next day for the same set of images as described above. There will be no more injections. Seldom patients will be asked to return for 48 hour post injection images.

Will it hurt?

Only the *pinprick* of the injection needle may hurt a bit. You may have had a blood test in the past. This is much the same.

Is the radiation dangerous?

The amount of radioactivity used for this test is quite small and will disappear by itself within one week to ten days.

Do I need to do anything after the study?

No special precautions are needed after the scan. If you are travelling across any borders in the two weeks after your scan, please ask us for further advice. Ports and airports have very sensitive radiation detectors which may pick up tiny amounts of radioactivity remaining after your scan. We will give you a letter that you can show to customs officials at ports or airports.

What happens to the results of the study?

Once your procedure has been completed, a specially trained Nuclear Medicine specialist will review your images and create a report. This report is then sent to the doctor who asked us to do the study.

Is there anything I should tell the staff before the study?

Yes, if you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant, please telephone us to let us know. Also, please telephone us if you are breastfeeding.

What if I have more questions?

We want your visit to be as pleasant as possible. If you have any questions, please ask the staff in the Nuclear Medicine department. You can telephone before your test day, or ask before the study starts. **Our telephone number is 613-761-4831, option 8.**

