



GUIDE



Gated Cardiac Scan



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 healthcare provider. Please consult your healthcare provider who will be able to determine the appropriateness of the information for your specific situation.

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Your physician has requested an examination called a “gated cardiac scan”. This is a simple and painless way of taking pictures of your heart using a radioactive tracer. You do not need to be fasting for this examination. The procedure is:

1. There a technologist will inject a special drug into a vein in the arm. This drug will prepare your red blood cells to accept the radioactive tracer, which will be injected about 30 minutes later. This tracer will attach itself to your red blood cells so that we can visualize the blood in your heart. The amount of radioactivity is very small and will have no adverse effect on you. You will receive no more radiation than for an ordinary x-ray.
2. After a further wait of about 15 minutes you will be asked to lie down on a table and some electrodes will be attached to your chest. Then a special detector, called a gamma camera, will be placed close to your chest and make images of your heart to determine how well it is functioning. The camera does not produce radiation; it simply picks up signals (gamma rays) from the radioactive tracer which was injected. Therefore, even though several pictures are taken, you will not be exposed to any further radiation.
3. The entire procedure takes about one hour. When it is complete, you may return home or, if you are hospitalized, return to your room feeling no ill effects from the examination. The results of your scan will be sent directly to your physician.

Important:

If you think you may be pregnant or if you are breast feeding, please inform the technologist before you receive your injection.

If you have any questions regarding these instructions, please call the Nuclear Medicine Division at 613-761-4831 ext. 8.

Notes