

Procedures/Diagnostic Tests

Octreotide scan

You are scheduled for an octreotide scan. This scan helps your doctor locate and diagnose certain types of tumors in your body. For this scan, you will be given a compound containing a small amount of radioactivity. You will then return for a scan after about 4 hours, and possibly after 24 and 48 hours. This scan is done in the Nuclear Medicine Department.

Procedure

- In the morning, you will receive a small amount of compound (radioisotope) by vein. You may then go back to your room.
- You will return to the Nuclear Medicine Department at your scheduled time: about 3 1/2 to 4 hours later.
- Once you are in the imaging room, you will rest on a firm table with your head flat. While you lie on your back, a sensitive machine (called a scanner) records the radiation given off by the radioisotope. Lie very still. Many pictures will be taken as the scanner moves from your head to your toes. This scan will last about 2 hours.
- This may be all the scanning you will need. The Nuclear Medicine Department staff will let you know if you need to return. Your doctor may request that you take a laxative the night before further scanning to clear your intestines for better scan results.
- The next day, if indicated, you will return at your scheduled time. Your scan will be similar the one that took place the previous day. This scan will last about 1 hour.

If you have any questions about the procedure, please ask. Your nurse and doctor are always ready to assist you.

After the procedure

This scan is painless. The only sensation you will feel will be the injection of the radioisotope in your vein.

Special instructions

Because it uses radioactivity, this scan is not performed in women who are pregnant or breast-feeding. *If you are pregnant, breast-feeding, or think you might be pregnant, please inform your doctor immediately so that a decision can be made about this scan.*

This information is prepared specifically for persons taking part in clinical research at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center and may not apply to patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your health care team.

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