

# Heart Scan (MUGA)



**Patients must also read their appointment letter  
and any enclosures carefully**

## **What is a Heart Scan (MUGA)?**

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A heart scan, also known as a MUGA (Multi-Gated Acquisition) scan, is a diagnostic procedure. The scan looks at how well your heart is pumping blood around your body. It involves an injection of a small amount of radioactive liquid and imaging with a special camera.

## How do you prepare for this scan?

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There is no preparation for this scan, you can eat, drink and take your medication as normal.

**Females:** Due to the radiation involved, there is a very small risk to an unborn or breastfeeding child. Therefore, it is important that you let us know in advance if you are, or may be, **pregnant** or **breastfeeding**.

## Who can come with you for this scan?

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It is fine if you want someone to come with you on the day of the scan. However, because we only have one waiting room, we advise you not to be accompanied by children or pregnant women to help to minimise the radiation exposure to these people.

## Finding the Nuclear Medicine Department

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The Nuclear Medicine Department is located in Zone C, Department C16.

## How is the scan performed?

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A small amount of blood labelling agent will be injected into a vein in your arm. This will **not** make you feel any different. You will then be asked to stay in the waiting room for about 15-20 minutes.

After this time, you will be called into the scanning room where you will lie on a bed. You will not be asked to remove all your clothing, but some clothing may need to be removed to allow access to place electrodes (sticky pads) which are used to monitor your heart beat.

The technician will then give you a second injection into a vein in your arm. This injection contains a slightly radioactive liquid. You will remain lying on the bed, and pictures of your heart will be taken by a special camera, which is placed against the left side of your chest. The time this takes varies, but on average, it takes between 10 and 20 minutes. Neither the injections, nor the scan, will make you feel any different. You will **not** be enclosed in a tunnel and you will **not** be left alone during the scan.

## How will this scan affect you?

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You should not feel any different. The procedure will not affect your ability to drive home so it is not necessary for anyone to accompany you unless you so wish.

For **24 hours** after the injection, all patients should sit on the toilet when passing urine.

## Are there any risks from the radioactive liquid?

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The radioactive liquid is used as sparingly as possible and the benefits of this scan far outweigh the small risk from radiation. The radiation dose you will receive is similar to the radiation that you receive from natural sources in a year. The injection will not affect the way you feel and the radioactive substance is quickly eliminated from your body. You can help this process by drinking plenty of fluid for the rest of the day and emptying your bladder more often than normal.

## Will the radiation affect other people?

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The radiation dose to other people around you is low and is therefore not a cause for concern.

## How will you get the results?

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You will not be given any results on the day of the scan. The consultant radiologist will, within a few days, send a report to the doctor or specialist who referred you for the scan.

## Travelling after your scan

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Some airports, seaports, train stations, bus stations and major sporting event venues have installed very sensitive radiation detectors. It is possible that these detectors may be triggered by the small amount of radioactivity remaining in your body on the days following your scan. Therefore, if you are planning to travel within **seven days** following your scan, it is recommended that you carry your appointment letter to show to officials if necessary.

## Additional Information:

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If you have any concerns or questions with regard to this procedure, or you need this information in another format such as larger print, please telephone the Nuclear Medicine Department on the phone number below:

**Nuclear Medicine Department: 01225 824076**