

The following information briefly explains the **Rest Muga Scan** test. It does not substitute for a discussion between you and your physician.

What is a MUGA scan?

It is a Nuclear Medicine Scan that takes pictures of your heart. **MUGA** refers to the program used by the camera to take pictures at specific times during each heartbeat. (**MU**ltiple **G**ated **A**cquisition). It is also known as a RNA Exam (**R**adio**N**uclide **A**ngiogram)

The MUGA scan is especially useful for assessing the **size and pumping strength of the left ventricle**. This is the part of the heart that pumps blood out to the body. The **ejection fraction** is a commonly used term which measures the pumping strength of the heart. The ejection fraction is the proportion of blood that is pumped from the left ventricle (the main pumping chamber) with each heartbeat. The **MUGA** scan also provides information about **heart wall motion**. In people who have had a heart attack, for example, the scan images often show poor wall movement in the area of the heart muscle that was damaged and scarred.

A MUGA scan can help show:

- heart muscle damage after a heart attack
- the size and pumping strength of the heart in patients with heart failure and/or heart muscle disease (cardiomyopathy)

- monitor the pumping strength during chemotherapy treatments for cancer (some cancer drugs can be harmful to the heart muscle).

Instructions

No preparation required for this test.

Do not stop any of your medications unless instructed to do so.

The Day Of The Test

1. Bring a list of your medications.
2. If you have a cold, fever or do not feel well, let the Cardiology Department know, as your appointment may have to be cancelled and re-booked.
3. If you are unable to keep your appointment, call 905-338-4686 between 8:00 a.m. and 3:45 p.m., 24 hours in advance.

What Happens During The Test

1. When you arrive in the Cardiology Department, please have your health card ready.
2. You are given a small injection into a vein in your arm of a substance that prepares your blood for the radioactive material.
3. Approximately 20 minutes after the first injection, the radioactive substance is injected into a vein in your arm. Rarely are there side effects from either injection.

4. Several electrodes are placed on your chest. It is sometimes necessary to shave the chest.
5. You will then have the resting pictures done. You will lie down on a scanning table and a camera will be positioned close to your chest. These pictures usually take about 20 minutes but sometimes can take up to an hour.

Notes

- ♦ The radiation dose given to you is very small. It is comparable to approximately 3 times the amount you would otherwise receive from natural environmental radiation in one year.
- ♦ The radioactive substance decays and is excreted from your body by the kidneys within 3 days.
- ♦ If you are travelling, please note that the radioisotope may be detected by radiation sensors at borders or airport screening check points. Please contact the Nuclear Medicine technologist for more information and to obtain a "travel letter".
- ♦ You will be able to drive after the test.
- ♦ The results of your test take approximately one week.

Consult Your Physician If You:

- Are pregnant
- Suspect that you are pregnant
- Are breastfeeding



Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital

**Cardiorespiratory Department
(Nuclear Cardiology)**

Rest Muga Scan

PATIENT NAME: _____

TEST DATE: _____

TEST TIME: _____

LOCATION

Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital
Cardiology Department - 1st Floor – Near Gift shop
Phone: 905/338-4686 Fax: 905/815-5082

