



St. Luke's Imaging Services Patient and Family Information

Nuclear Medicine DaTscan Imaging

What is Nuclear Medicine DaTscan?

DaTscan imaging is a type of Nuclear Medicine imaging that helps evaluate areas of the brain. Nuclear Medicine uses small amounts of radioactive material to diagnose and determine the severity of or treatment for a variety of diseases. In the case of DaTscan, it can help your Doctor decide if movement difficulties are due to a parkinsonian syndrome or something else with similar symptoms such as essential tremor.

Special Note

Before the exam, please tell your doctor if you are, or think you may be pregnant or are nursing.

Please tell your doctor if you are sensitive to iodine or any of the components of DaTscan.

Please tell your doctor if you have reduced renal function.

Preparation

- Review current medications with your doctor to determine if possible drug interactions.
- Please bring your medication list with you to your exam.
- Hydrate and empty your bladder frequently the day prior to your appointment.
- Wear comfortable clothing.

What happens during the test?

A nuclear medicine technologist will perform the exam. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask the technologist to answer them before the exam begins. He or she will explain the entire procedure.

To begin, you will receive a drug to prevent the iodine in DaTscan from going into your thyroid.

An hour after receiving the thyroid blocking medication, the technologist will start an IV in your arm. DaTscan will be injected through the IV catheter in your arm.

Because it takes time for the DaTScan to be distributed in the brain, we have to wait three hours after this injection before we start imaging.

When you return three hours after the injection, imaging begins. You will be asked to lie on a table and the technologist will position your head on a headrest. A flexible band may be placed across your forehead or chin to prevent your head from moving during the test. It is important you keep your head as still as possible during imaging. A camera will be positioned above you. It will be very close to your head, but will not touch you. You must try to remain as still as possible while the camera takes pictures for approximately 30 minutes.

When imaging is complete, you will be free to leave.

After the test

Continue to hydrate and empty your bladder frequently for two days after your test.

When will I know the results?

The Radiologist will review and interpret the scan after the exam is completed. A written report will be sent to your doctor. Your doctor will discuss the results with you.

Please allow your physician the time needed to review these results.

Outpatient Instructions

Please register at the Outpatient Registration desk at the West Entrance in St. Luke's Hospital. After registering, testing will be done in the Imaging Services Department on the second floor. Please use the elevators past registration on the left.

Name: _____

Exam date/time: _____