

UnityPoint Health - Finley Hospital Radiology Patient/Family Information
Nuclear Medicine Lung Scan
(V /Q Scan)

What is a Lung Scan?

A Nuclear Medicine lung scan is a diagnostic exam used to detect or rule out a pulmonary embolus (blood clot).

Prior to surgery, a lung scan maybe requested to compare the blood supply to each lung as determined by your doctor.

Special Note

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

Preparation

Please bring your medication list with you.

There is no preparation for the lung scan; however a chest x-ray is required within 24 hours of this test. If you have not had a chest x-ray within 24 hours of this test, one will be done while you are here.

If this is your only exam you are having, there are no diet or activity restrictions before or after your exam. If other exams are scheduled along with your nuclear medicine lung scan, you may be asked to follow other instructions. The Nuclear Medicine staff will help you understand all of your instructions.

What Happens During the Test?

A Nuclear Medicine technologist will perform the exam, which is done in two parts:

Part 1 – the patient will be asked to breathe a radioactive gas through a mask while images are taken of the air flowing in and out of the lungs. This part of the exam takes about 5-6 minutes. After inhalation, additional images will be taken of your lung which will take approximately 20 minutes.

Part 2 – the patient will receive an injection of a different radioactive material that will show the blood that is supplied to the lungs. After the injection, images will be taken for approximately 10-15 minutes.

When all images are completed, a radiologist will review the exam and determine if any further imaging is needed. At that time, your physician will be contacted with the results. You may be asked to wait here for further instructions from your physician.

When Will I Know the Results?

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

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

Name: _____

Exam Date/Time: _____