

Procedure Information: Lung Scan

WHEN ARE LUNG SCAN PROCEDURES ORDERED?

Lung scan procedures are ordered for:

- Detection of a blood clot in the lung called a pulmonary embolus (PE)
- Follow-up on therapy you received to treat a pulmonary embolus
- Evaluation of lung function prior to thoracotomy

PATIENT PREPARATION

There are no dietary or medication restrictions.

HOW LONG WILL THIS TAKE?

Upon arrival you will be registered by our office staff. Timeframe: 10 minutes.

A certified nuclear medicine technologist will explain the procedure. Timeframe: 10 minutes.

A lung scan is in two parts.

The first part is the ventilation scan. You will be asked to breathe a mist that contains an isotope for 4 minutes. This is followed by imaging your lungs from multiple projections. Timeframe: 20 minutes.

The second part is the perfusion scan. Upon completion of the ventilation images, the certified nuclear medicine technologist will administer an isotope intravenously. The isotope will travel to your lungs by way of blood circulation. The same images that were taken during the ventilation scan will be repeated for the perfusion scan.

Timeframe: 10 minutes

Typically a lung scan will take one hour.

PROCEDURE

A certified nuclear medicine technologist will verify your identity (name and birth date) and explain the procedure.

You will then be asked to breathe a mist that contains a small amount of a radioactive isotope for 4 minutes. Upon completion, the technologist will take you to a camera room, have you lie down on the imaging table and take several pictures of your lung from multiple angles. There are no side effects and test is painless.

Upon completion of the ventilation scan, the certified nuclear medicine technologist will administer an isotope intravenously. He or she will repeat the same images that were done during the ventilation scan.

A board certified nuclear medicine physician will review, compare your ventilation and perfusion lung scan and interpret it. The results will be called to your physician and mailed to him or her within one working day.

