

PULMONARY PERFUSION SCINTIGRAPHY

Scintigraphy is an imaging technique used to evaluate the metabolic processes in the tissues and lesions of the human body. A small amount of radiolabelled substance will be injected into the patient's body to obtain an image. In the present case, it is a technetium-99m-labelled macro aggregated albumin that accumulates in the pulmonary capillaries.

At the same time, computed tomography (CT) will be performed.

Indications for the test:

- diagnosis of pulmonary embolism and pulmonary infarction (also in the case of intolerance to contrast media due to allergy or kidney failure);
- chronic obstructive pulmonary disease;
- assessment of pulmonary blood flow prior to surgical treatment of pulmonary diseases;
- due to the lower radiation load, this test is preferred to computed tomography with an analogous purpose.

Inform your doctor and medical staff if:

- you have experienced claustrophobia or the fear of enclosed spaces;
- you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or come into close contact with children or pregnant women following the procedure;
- you are unable to lie still.

The test does not require special preparation.

The procedure

The duration of the procedure, including preparation, is about 30–45 minutes. Before the test, a nurse will speak to you and provide a detailed explanation of the procedure. After that, the nurse will position you on an examination table, inject the tracer and perform the recording. Before administering the tracer, the nurse will ask you to breathe in and out and cough a few times, so that the tracer is evenly distributed throughout the lungs.

During the recording, you need to lie still for about 20 minutes.

After the test:

- eat normally; it is advisable to drink plenty of fluids to accelerate the excretion of the tracer through the kidneys;
- breastfeeding should usually be discontinued for 24 hours; removed breast milk should be discarded. Detailed instructions will be given to you by the personnel in the department;
- on the study day try to avoid close (less than 1 metre) and long lasting (over quarter an hour) contact with children and pregnant women;
- study results will be sent to referring physician within a week. If you have a doctor's appointment on the same day or the following day, please inform the study personnel.

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