

SCINTIGRAPHY OF THE LYMPHATIC SYSTEM

Purpose of the study

This study investigates the functioning of the lymphatic system and possible blockages in it.

Preparing for the study

- You may eat and drink normally before the study.
- You may take your medications normally.
- Dentures and prosthetic joints will not interfere with a nuclear medicine study.
- The study is not done in pregnant women.

What to expect at the study

Before the scan begins, you will need to remove any compression sleeves or stockings as well as any loose metal objects on your body, such as your belt, keys or coins in your pockets, and your mobile phone.

You will receive a small amount of radioactive tracer that has a special affinity for lymphatic vessels. A doctor will use a fine needle to inject the tracer under your skin, either on the back of both your hands or the top of both your feet. Then you will need to move your hands or feet around for a while so that the tracer starts passing through your lymphatic vessels. You will not sense the tracer.

Your lymphatic system will be scanned continuously for one hour. Then there will be a short break so you can get up and stretch your legs. After the break, your lymphatic system will be scanned one more time for about 10 minutes.

Duration of the study

The study takes about 2.5 hours including the break. You will need to lie on your back and stay still during the scans.

Study results

The study results will be provided by a doctor at the ward or clinic that referred you.

After the study

You will emit a small amount of radioactivity into your immediate environment after receiving the tracer. The radioactive tracer is eliminated through urine, so you should drink plenty of fluids after the study and empty your bladder more often than usual.

For one day after the study you should avoid holding children or being next to them for more than half an hour total. Avoid also close contacts with pregnant women. Anyone will be completely safe from the radiation at a distance of two metres. The radiation will dissipate spontaneously by the following day.

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