MUGA Scan or RVG
Patient Instructions

How to Prepare
- There is no preparation needed for this procedure.

What to Expect
- A MUGA (Multi-Gated Acquisition) or RVG (Radionuclide VentriculoGram) is a test that uses a small amount of radioactive material (tracer) to assess the pumping action of the heart.
- The test takes about 75 minutes. It has two parts: the tracer preparation and the MUGA scan.
  1. The tracer preparation takes 25-30 minutes. A technologist will draw a small blood sample using an IV (intravenous line) in your arm or hand (an existing Port-a-Cath or Hickman catheter may also be used for this exam). The blood sample will be taken to our lab, where the technologist will add a small amount of a radioactive tracer to the sample. Following this process, the technologist will re-inject you with your blood sample. There are no side effects from the tracer.
  2. The MUGA scan takes 45-50 minutes. During the scan, three pictures of your heart will be taken. Each picture takes 10-20 minutes.

Pregnant Women and New Mothers
- Generally, MUGA scans are NOT performed on pregnant women. If you are pregnant or think you could be pregnant, discuss this with your doctor.
- If you are breastfeeding, you should not breastfeed for 48 hours after the scan. Nursing mothers are encouraged to pump and store milk before being injected with the radioactive tracer.

After the MUGA Scan
- For 24 hours after your scan, limit the amount of time you are in close contact with children and with pregnant or potentially pregnant women.
- Drink plenty of fluids and empty your bladder often after the scan.

How to Find Us
Nuclear Medicine is located on level L2 of the Dana building. To get to Nuclear Medicine from Dana-Farber’s parking garage or any floor of the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care, please use one of these route options.

A. From level P2 of the parking garage:
   1. Walk through the Tomsich Family Gallery (gene display) to reach the Dana building.
   2. Turn left after the Tomsich Family Gallery to find the Nuclear Medicine reception desk.

B. From the 3rd floor of the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care:
   1. Cross the PMC Bridge to reach the Dana building.
   2. Take a Dana building elevator down to level L2, where you’ll find the Nuclear Medicine reception desk.

For driving directions to Dana-Farber, visit www.dana-farber.org/directions or call 617-632-3400.

Questions?
If you have any questions or concerns or need to reschedule your appointment, call Nuclear Medicine at 617-632-3223.