

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**.