RVG/MUGA Scan
Patient Instructions

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

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

What to Expect
- An RVG/MUGA scan is a test that uses a small amount of radioactive material (tracer) to assess the pumping action of the heart.
- The entire appointment takes about 90 minutes and is performed in two parts:
  1. The tracer preparation takes about 30 minutes. A technologist will draw a small amount of blood using an IV (intravenous line) in your arm or hand (an existing Port-a-Cath can also be used for this exam). The blood sample will be taken to our lab, where the technologist will add a small amount of radioactive tracer to the blood. Following this process, the technologist will re-inject you with your blood sample. There are no side effects from the tracer.
  2. The RVG/MUGA scan takes about 45 minutes. During the scan, three pictures of your heart will be taken. Each picture takes about 10-15 minutes.

After the Scan
- For 24 hours after your scan, minimize 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 frequently after the scan.

How to Find Us
Longwood Campus (Boston)
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.

Chestnut Hill Campus (Newton)
Nuclear Medicine is located on the 3rd floor. Enter the parking garage on Boylston Street and park on level P3. Take the Boylston elevators to the 3rd floor and check in at the desk.

For driving directions to Dana-Farber, visit www.dana-farber.org/directions or call 617-632-3400.
Questions?
A staff member will call you to review these instructions and answer any questions about 1-3 days before your scan. If you need to reschedule your appointment, call Nuclear Medicine at 617-632-3223.