

## Gated heart pool scan

This fact sheet tells you what a gated heart (or blood) pool scan is, and what is involved. Please read this sheet before having your scan. If you have any questions, ask your doctor.

### What is a gated heart pool scan?

A gated heart pool scan is a nuclear medicine imaging test. It measures the amount of blood in the heart during different parts of the heart beat.

It is commonly used to measure the performance of an unwell heart or to check the effects of chemotherapy (cancer treatment) on the heart.

### What is involved?

There are no particular instructions to prepare for your scan.

**Before the scan, you should tell your doctor and the imaging staff if you have any allergies, are breastfeeding, are pregnant or think you might be pregnant.**

For the scan, a small amount of a radiopharmaceutical (radioactive tracer) is injected through a small needle into a vein in your arm. This tracer sticks to the red cells in your blood, so they can be seen using a special camera called a gamma camera.

After your injection you will be asked to lie on the scan table and a few ECG electrodes will be stuck to your chest and shoulders. Men may need a light shave so they can stick. Sometimes you may need a second injection.

The gamma camera is used to take pictures of the heart. Each image takes about 10 minutes. Usually, three images are taken. You need to lie still and breathe normally.

### What happens after the scan?

A nuclear medicine physician (a specialist doctor) will assess the pictures and then send the results to your referring doctor. You should not have any issues after the scan.

### Are there any risks?

While all nuclear medicine tests involve some exposure to radiation, the amount is very small, so the risk of side effects is very low. Allergic reactions are very rare and almost always mild.

### For more information

Nuclear medicine: Answering your questions by the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation: [www.ansto.gov.au/cs/groups/corporate/documents/webcontent/mdaw/mdax/~edisp/acstest\\_038604.pdf](http://www.ansto.gov.au/cs/groups/corporate/documents/webcontent/mdaw/mdax/~edisp/acstest_038604.pdf)

RadiologyInfo by the American College of Radiology and Radiological Society of North America: [www.radiologyinfo.org](http://www.radiologyinfo.org)

The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency: [www.arpsa.gov.au](http://www.arpsa.gov.au)

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