

Brain Scans



Radiology Department

4480 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC V6H 3V4

604-875-2345 • 1-888-300-3088

www.bcchildrens.ca

Nuclear Medicine Supplement:

Please read the pamphlet: **Nuclear Medicine Scans BCCH1097** before this sheet.

Why is this test done?

This test looks at problems within the brain and/or in the blood flow to the brain.

What happens during the test?

When your child arrives in the Nuclear Medicine department, an intravenous (IV) line will be put in place, usually in the hand. Your child will lie in a quiet room with dim light to relax for about 10 minutes. This will allow the brain to be at rest. If you stay with your child, please don't speak or play. Help your child stay relaxed and still.

The radioactive substance will be injected into the IV line. In some cases the substance may be injected while your child is having a seizure.

Your child will lie quietly for another 10 minutes. The IV line will be removed. Your child can then leave the department for 1 - 1 1/2 hours.

The scan will be done when your child returns. It will take 30 - 60 minutes. Your child must be able to hold his/her head very still for the scan.

Some children also have an EEG* while the radioactive substance is injected. The Nuclear Medicine technologist does the injection.

* For more information about an EEG see pamphlet BCCH1102.

What are the side effects?

The radioactive substance will be in your child's blood and urine for 24 hours after the test. Wear gloves and wash your hands well if you are touching diapers or dressings in the EEG laboratory.

Give your child lots to drink so that the bladder empties often. This flushes radioactive material out of the body quickly.