



radiology SA

# NUCLEAR MEDICINE VQ LUNG SCAN

## Your appointment

**Date:**

**Time:**

Patient Preparation:  
**Nil.**

Time for Examination:  
**1 hour.**

Please Bring:  
**All previous Imaging including  
Nuclear Medicine Scans, X-  
rays, US, CT and MRI studies.**

Location:

**Calvary Hospital  
X-Ray Department  
89 Strangways Tc  
North Adelaide SA 5006**

Parking:

Free on-street parking is available (1hour, 2 hour and all day). Please take note of parking time limits as this area is patrolled by council.

RadiologySA Nuclear Specialists:

Dr Rey Casse MBBS FRACP  
Dr Ghee Chew MBBS FRACP  
Dr Vivian Hall MBBS FRANZCR  
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Your doctor has recommended that you have a Nuclear Medicine VQ Lung Scan.

A Nuclear Medicine VQ Lung Scan consists of 2 parts—Part 1 to investigate the air supply to your lungs and Part 2 to investigate the blood supply to your lungs.

Part 1: For the first part of the test you will need to breathe a small amount of radioactive gas into your lungs. A technologist will demonstrate for you how to breathe the gas into your lungs. This is a bit like scuba diving. You will need to place a tube in your mouth and breathe in and out through the tube. Your nose will be pegged to remind you to only breathe through your mouth. Many patients are concerned about how long they will need to breathe in the gas. For most patients it only takes around 2 to 3 minutes and you can take breaks if you feel short of breath at any time. There are no side effects to the gas and it will not interfere with any medications you may be taking. When you have breathed sufficient gas into your lungs to obtain a diagnostic picture you will be positioned under a camera for imaging.

Imaging involves a short series of pictures. You will need between 4 and 6 pictures of your lungs from different angles, with each picturing taking approximately 3 minutes. You will not be required to hold your breath during each picture.

Part 2: The second part of the test is done immediately following Part 1 and involves a small injection into a vein (usually in your arm). This injection contains a small amount of radioactivity but there are no side effects to the injection and it will not interfere with any medications you may be taking. It is important to tell the doctor if you are allergic to eggs as the injection is not suitable for people with egg allergies. Immediately following injection your pictures will be repeated. These pictures only take approximately 1 minute each and again you may breathe normally during scanning.

At the completion of the study you will be able to drive home as there are no side effects to the test.

This study can be modified for pregnant women. Your doctor will discuss this with you if applicable. Breast-feeding mothers can have a Nuclear Medicine Lung Scan but will be required to express and discard their breast milk for 6 hours after the injection. Patients who will be the primary care-giver to children under five on the day of the test, are encouraged to maintain a certain distance (around 1 metre) from the children where possible. This is not essential but is recommended in the 12 hours following injection, to avoid very young children being exposed to small amounts of radioactivity unnecessarily.

**For more information please contact:  
08 8402 0270**