



Name: _____

LUNG SCAN (V-Q Scan/V-P Scan)

The following information is a brief description of a lung scan, also known as a V-Q or V-P scan. If you have any questions after reading this information, please speak with your nurse.

WHAT IS A V-Q SCAN?

- ❖ A lung scan is also called a V-Q scan because it evaluates both the Ventilation and Perfusion of your lungs. Ventilation is the process by which air moves from outside the body to the furthest point of the lung, the alveoli. It is in these grape like clusters (alveoli) that the body exchanges oxygen for carbon dioxide. Q is the symbol for perfusion which represents the movement of blood through the arteries that supply the lung.

WHY IS IT DONE?

- ❖ This test is done to detect any abnormalities, such as tumors, blood clots, chronic or acute pulmonary obstructive disease, or to evaluate lung function before surgery.

WHAT PREPARATION IS NEEDED?

- ❖ No special preparation is required. There are no dietary restrictions or fasting required.
- ❖ The test cannot be done if you have an allergy to egg whites or albumin.
- ❖ Tell the doctor if you are breastfeeding or pregnant.
- ❖ All jewelry or metal must be removed from your neck and chest before the lung scan is done.
- ❖ Escort staff will take you by wheelchair or stretcher to the Nuclear Medicine Department.



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WHERE IS THE PROCEDURE DONE?

- ❖ Nuclear Medicine Department, 2nd Floor, Tisch Hospital.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

- ❖ A total of 60 minutes for both parts of the test is average. Each part takes about 15-30 minutes.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE PROCEDURE?

- ❖ A small amount of a radioactive drug is injected intravenously into an arm vein.
- ❖ You will be asked to sit in front of or lie beneath a camera (the Gamma Camera) which takes a series of images. These pictures will show how the blood flows to the lung.
- ❖ Also, a small amount of radioactive gas is given with an oxygen mask or aerosol device.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PROCEDURE?

- ❖ You will be returned to your unit. There is only a small amount of radioactivity left in your body and there is no danger to you or others.
- ❖ You will have a chest x-ray done within 12 hours of the procedure.
- ❖ The results will be available to your physician within a few hours. Your physician will discuss the results with you.
- ❖ If you are nursing, you will be asked to discard your breast milk for 5-6 days after which time it is safe to resume nursing.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR QUESTIONS:
