

Nuclear Medicine - Muga Scan

MUGA is an acronym for **M**U**l**t**i**-**G**ated **A**cquisition, the way the nuclear medicine's computer system acquires the images of your heart. If a patient has had a heart attack, or any other disease that affects the heart muscle, the MUGA scan can localize the portion of the heart muscle that has sustained damage, and can assess the degree of damage. Most importantly, MUGA scan creates an accurate report of how well the heart is pumping blood in real time images.

The nuclear medicine technologist will bring you into the hot lab and insert an I.V. A small test tube of your blood will be drawn and tagged with a radiotracer which takes approximately 20-30 minutes to mix. When ready, your tagged blood will be reinjected into the I.V. so it will flow into your blood stream. EKG leads are placed on your chest to track the heart chambers beating. You will be placed in front of the camera and 3 different images will be obtained of your heart. The imaging can take up to 1hour.

There is no preparation for this procedure.