About Your Octreoscan

What You Need to Know and Do

An octreoscan is an imaging test. A small amount of radioactive material (called a tracer) is injected into your body.

The radioactive material is safe. It helps detect certain tumors in your body.

The octreoscan is a 2-day study. During your first visit, you will be injected with the tracer. After 4 hours, we will take your first set of images. You will come back after 24 hours, and we will take your second set of images.

What should I do before my test?

- Make sure your doctor knows if you are (or could be) pregnant, or are breastfeeding.

- Let your doctor know of any medicines you are taking, including vitamins, herbs, and over-the-counter medicine. Some of them may need to be stopped in the days before the test.

Let your technologist know if you are:

- taking any medicines

- had recent X-rays or tests that use any substances, such as barium

- have had recent surgery

- have other health problems, such as diabetes, or any allergies

What will happen during my test?

- During Day 1:
  - A technologist will explain the test to you and answer any questions you have.

  - A small amount of radioactive material will be injected into a vein in your arm. This will take about 15 minutes.

  - You will wait 4 hours. This allows the radioactive material time to go through your body. You can eat and drink during this time.

  - After the 4 hours are up, the first set of images will be taken. This will take about 30 to 45 minutes.

  - You will go home and can eat a light dinner. You will be given instructions about taking a laxative at night to prepare for the second day of testing.

- During Day 2:
  - You can eat a light breakfast before you come for the second day of your test.

  - Your second set of images will be taken. This will take 1 to 2 hours.

What should I do after my test?

- You can go home shortly after the test. You can return to your normal activities right after the test.

- Your doctor will contact you and discuss the test results with you. This will probably happen a few days after the test.

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