

The Gallium Nuclear Medicine Examination

How do I prepare for a Gallium Nuclear Medicine Scan?

Please consult your doctor prior to preparing for this procedure if you have serious kidney or cardiac problems or are unable to take in large amounts of fluids by mouth. This test should not be performed if there is a possibility that you may be pregnant, since radiation is used. Please consult your doctor if you are diabetic, as your diabetic medications may need adjusting.

In order for the Nuclear Medicine examination to adequately evaluate your colon, it is essential that the colon be free of stool, which, if present, may obscure abnormalities. The keys to a successful colon preparation are a low residue diet, as outlined below, taking the prescribed cleansing medications and drinking plenty of fluids.

The following non-prescription medications are available from your local pharmacy and should be obtained prior to beginning the Nuclear Medicine Scan:

- Magnesium Citrate – One (1) 10 oz bottle

On the day before your test:

- Breakfast: Have a clear liquid breakfast. This meal may include: clear broth or bullion, clear or strained fruit juices such as grape or apple juice, clear jello or gelatin, coffee or tea,, non-carbonated beverages, orange, raspberry or lemon ice .
- Lunch: Have a clear liquid lunch, using the same guidelines as breakfast
- 1 PM Drink a full 8 oz glass of water. Repeat this every 1 to 2 hour until bed time.
- 4 PM Drink the bottle of Magnesium Citrate- this can be chilled to make it easier to drink. Also drink one 8 ounce glass of water.
- Dinner: Have a clear liquid supper, using the same guidelines as breakfast and lunch.

What will happen?

- A whole body scan will be performed at 24 hours and 48 hours, additional imaging may be needed at 72 hours.
- The scan usually takes 60 minutes or longer