Exam Information

Diagnostic Imaging

What is a Nuclear Parathyroid exam?

A small amount of radioactive material (no side effects) will be injected. A special camera is used to image your neck which is where your parathyroid glands are located. This exam helps detect and localize overactive parathyroid tissue.

How is the exam performed?

You will be injected with the radiopharmaceutical, and there will be a 10 minute wait before pictures will begin. For pictures, you will be lying on your back and a special camera will be positioned very close to your neck. Four 10 minute pictures will be taken at different angles. After these pictures are completed, you are allowed to leave. You will then be instructed by the technologist to return approximately one hour later for more pictures. When you re-arrive, three 10 minute pictures will be taken. There are no restrictions during the break.

How should I prepare for the exam?

- Bring a list of your current medications
- This test does not require any specific preparation

What will I feel during the exam?

There are no adverse reactions to this exam.

Who interprets the exam and when will I get my results?

After the exam, a radiologist will review your study and send a written report to the ordering physician. That physician will then contact you with your results.