V/Q lung scan

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET

Your appointment:

Date: .....

Time: .....

Location: .....

Please see our website for more branch details.

Duration of examination

The examination process will take approximately 30 minutes.

Please bring with you:

- Your request form
- All previous relevant imaging
- Medicare and any Healthcare cards

Payment on the day of the examination is requested.

For more information on this procedure please call one of our branches.

For more information regarding Benson Radiology please visit:

bensonradiology.com.au

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What is a V/Q lung scan?

A V/Q lung scan is an examination that detects pulmonary emboli (blood clots) within your lungs.

Patient preparation

There is no specific preparation for this examination. You may continue your current medications as normal.

What will happen during the examination?

The procedure consists of two parts. The first part assesses the air flow to the lungs, whilst the second part looks at the blood flow to the lungs.

The technologist will firstly explain the entire procedure. You will then be positioned on your back beneath the camera. To enable us to view the air flow to the lungs, you will need to breathe in an aerosol. This aerosol is a mixture of air and a small amount of radioactive tracer, which will coat the inside of your lungs. You will be given a small mouthpiece through which you need to breathe in and out for a few minutes. So that you can only breathe through your mouth, similar to snorkelling, a small peg is placed on your nose.

Once there is enough aerosol in your lungs, the mouthpiece is removed and a series of images is taken with a gamma camera. These images are taken from different angles around your body and take about ten minutes to complete.

The second part of the test assesses the blood flow to your lungs. This requires a small injection to be given into a vein in your arm. The injection contains tiny radioactive particles which localise in your lungs, showing the blood flow.

The same series of images taken for the first part of the test is then repeated. This completes the examination. You may be instructed to wait for these images so you can return with them to see your doctor.

It is important to note that neither the aerosol nor the injection contain any iodine contrast normally associated with x-ray procedures. Therefore, a V/Q lung scan is a safe procedure for you, even if you are allergic to x-ray dyes.

Are there any risks?

This examination has no associated side effects.

Pregnant, breast feeding patients and carers of infants

This examination may be suitable for pregnant women.

Breastfeeding mothers may undergo the procedure, but will need to cease breast feeding for 3 hours after the scan. Breast milk should be expressed and discarded during this period. Breast feeding may resume after the 3 hours.

After the examination

The nuclear medicine specialist will review and report on your images. This can take up to 90 minutes. You may be instructed to wait for these images and return to see your doctor. Alternatively we can generally deliver the images and report to your doctor by the next working day.