

VQ Lung Scan

PATIENT INFORMATION

What is a VQ Lung Scan?

A VQ (Ventilation-Perfusion) lung scan is a nuclear medicine test that evaluates airflow (ventilation) and blood flow (perfusion) in the lungs to detect conditions like pulmonary embolism. It involves inhaling a radioactive gas or aerosol for ventilation imaging and receiving an injection of a radioactive tracer for perfusion imaging, with a gamma camera capturing both sets of images for comparison.

What will happen during the examination?

The test consists of two parts; part 1 investigates the air supply to your lungs, and part 2 the blood supply to your lungs.

The first part of the test you will need to breathe a small amount of radioactive gas into your lungs. A technologist will demonstrate how to breathe the gas into your lungs. This is a bit like scuba diving. You will place a tube in your mouth and breathe in and out through the tube. Your nose will be pegged to remind you to only breathe through your mouth. Many patients are concerned about how long they will need to breathe in the gas. For most patients, it only takes around 2 to 3 breaths and you can take breaks if you feel short of breath at any time. There are no side effects to the gas and it will not interfere with any medications you may be taking. When you have breathed sufficient gas into your lungs to obtain a diagnostic picture you will be positioned under a camera for imaging. Imaging involves a series of pictures for approximately 15 minutes.

The second part of the test is done immediately following part 1 and involves a small injection into a vein (usually in your arm). This injection contains a small amount of radioactivity but there are no side effects to the injection and it will not interfere with any medications you may be taking. Immediately following injection your pictures will be repeated for another 15 minutes.

Pregnant and/or breastfeeding

This study can be modified for pregnant women. Your doctor will discuss this with you if applicable.

Breastfeeding mothers should contact our department before their appointment to discuss any specific preparation. You will need to express and discard milk but can resume feeding after your appointment.

After the examination

Our radiologist will review and report on your images and we will deliver them electronically to your doctor.



07 5440 9700



07 5440 9777



info@noosaradiology.com.au



0407 822 578



www.noosaradiology.com.au