

Scintigraphy is an imaging technique used to evaluate the metabolic processes in the tissues and lesions of the human body. A small amount of radiolabelled substance involved in metabolism will be injected into the patient's body to obtain an image. In the present case, it is technetium-99m pertechnetate, which builds up in the salivary glands and is excreted with saliva.

The test is used to assess the function of the salivary glands.

Inform medical staff about conditions that need special attention:

- claustrophobia (fear of small or closed spaces);
- pregnancy; breastfeeding: you will receive guidance when to resume breastfeeding;
- you are unable to lie still.

Preparation for the test:

- the test does not require special preparation; however, you are advised not to eat 1 hour before the test.

The procedure

The duration of the procedure, including preparation, is about 1 hour. Before the test, a nurse will speak to you and insert an intravenous cannula. Before the test, you will be asked to lie on your back on the examination table. The nurse will inject the tracer and the recording will begin. During the test, you will be asked to lie still to ensure a high-quality result. During the test, you will be given a vitamin C tablet. You will be instructed to keep it in your mouth and swallow the accumulated saliva.

After the study:

- follow your normal diet and drink plenty of fluids to foster removal of excessive tracer from the body;
- breastfeeding should usually be discontinued for 24 hours; removed breast milk should be discarded. Detailed instructions will be given to you by the personnel in the department;
- on the study day try to avoid close (less than 1 metre) and long lasting (over quarter an hour) contact with children and pregnant women;
- study results will be sent to referring physician within a week. If you have a doctor's appointment on the same day or the following day, please inform the study personnel.

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