

NORTH SHORE RADIOLOGY
& NUCLEAR MEDICINE



PERSANTIN SESTAMIBI SCAN

Information Brochure

North Shore Radiology & Nuclear Medicine
North Shore Private Hospital
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Information

ABOUT A PERSANTIN SESTAMIBI SCAN

What is it?

This test evaluates blood flow throughout the heart.

How is the test done and how long does it take?

After the test is explained to you, a technologist will insert a cannula and inject a small dose of radioactive Sestamibi. Some 45 minutes later you will be positioned under a specialised camera which takes scans (pictures) of your heart. This takes about half an hour. A doctor will further discuss the test with you prior to you being taken to the stress laboratory.

In the stress laboratory, a technician will place several ECG dots on your chest and take your blood pressure. The doctor will then inject Persantin through the cannula over several minutes (Persantin enlarges the arteries which supply blood into your heart). Your doctor will carefully monitor you during this period.

A few minutes later the doctor will give you an injection of another small dose of sestamibi through the cannula. About 30-60 minutes later you will be positioned under the camera again for a similar set of scans of your heart.

The total time of the test may take up to 5 hours.

Is it painful and are there any side effects?

While most patients experience no side effects during the test, Persantin may cause nausea, headache, flushing or chest pain. These symptoms are usually mild and short lasting and relieved by medication. More serious side effects are extremely rare. The test is usually not done if you have moderate to severe asthma. If you have asthma please talk to your doctor or phone us before the day of the test.

Can I take my normal medications?

In most cases, yes. The only medications which you should discontinue (36 hours prior to the test), are Persantin and several asthma drugs (Austyn, Elixophyllin, Neulin, Slo-Bid, Theo-dur).

If you are uncertain whether to cease any medication, please check with your doctor or call us. On the morning of the test do not take any caffeine containing medications (eg Cafergot, Migral, Ergodryl).

Can I eat and drink on the day of my test?

No. You should not have anything to eat or drink (except for water) on the morning of your test. Do not have breakfast. Also you should not have foods or drinks containing caffeine (including coffee, tea, chocolate, cola or cocoa) for 24 hours before your test. If you are a diabetic and take insulin, you may have a light breakfast with half your morning insulin, several hours before the test. Diabetic patients should ring and discuss this with one of our staff.

What if I am pregnant?

The test will usually not be performed on pregnant women. If you know that you are (or think you might be) pregnant, please inform us before the test begins.

Will I get the result on leaving the department?

No. Computer analysis is done after the test. The results are sent to your referring doctor. In urgent cases the result is will be sent by facsimile or given by telephone.

Can I drive home after the scan?

Yes. You will not be drowsy in any way.

What should I do on the day of the test?

Please remember to bring your requesting letter and any recent X-rays or CT scans. At the time of your appointment, report to North Shore Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, which is located on the ground floor of North Shore Private Hospital in Westbourne Street.

An appointment has been made for you at

Time: _____

Date: _____

Estimate: _____

If you are unable to keep your appointment please notify us as early as possible so we can arrange a more suitable time.

Please bring with you all relevant previous x-rays and scans that you have in your possession.

Parking

You can reach us by car, bus, train, or taxi.

We are located within the grounds of the Royal North Shore Campus, in St. Leonards, just off the Pacific Highway or Gore Hill Freeway.



*Refer map over page.



Metered street parking is available on Westbourne Street.

Parking is also available in the multi storey car park accessed from Westbourne Street or Reserve Road.



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