

Ventilation-Perfusion Scan

A ventilation–perfusion (VQ) scan is a nuclear medicine scan that uses radioactive material (radiopharmaceutical) to examine airflow (ventilation) and blood flow (perfusion) in the lungs. You should expect the examination to take around 60 minutes.

Preparation

There is no preparation needed for this examination. We advise that you leave all jewelry at home.

The day of the examination

Before the ventilation scan, you will wear a breathing mask over your nose and mouth and will breathe in a small amount of a radioisotope gas mixed with oxygen. Before the perfusion scan, we will inject a small amount of radioisotope into a vein in your arm. The scanner detects the energy that the radioisotopes release inside your body and uses that energy to make pictures of your lungs. While in the scanner you have to lie on your back with your arms up for approx. 40min



We are located at Landspítali Hringbraut, department 10G (Ísótópastofa). Please use the entrance near Eiríksgata. Please remember that the parking closest to the hospital may require payment.

The examination:

- We will place a catheter in your arm
- Ventilation with a breathing mask (takes approx. 5min)
- First part of the imaging (takes approx. 15min)
- An injection will be administered into the catheter.
- Second part of the imaging (takes approx. 25min)
- Total time for the examination is approx. 60min.

After the examination.

- The results will be sent to your doctor. It can take up to a week before your doctor will receive the results.
- We recommend that you drink plenty of water after the examination.
- Since the tracer we give you is radioactive we recommend that you keep 2 meters distance from other people for 24 hours after the injection. Take special care to keep your distance from pregnant women and small children so that they will not be exposed to radiation.
- If you are planning to travel abroad shortly after the examination please let us know. We will arrange for you to receive a travel certificate which you might need to present at the airport.

Please call us if you have any questions or if you need to change your appointment. Röntgendeild Landspítala Hringbraut, telephone 543-5050. Email: isotop@landspitali.is