

What to Do after Having a Nuclear Medicine Scan

You had a Nuclear Medicine scan. You have received a radioactive tracer called:

- 99m-Techneium
 201-Thallium
 67-Gallium
 111-Indium

The radioactive tracer will become less radioactive through a natural process called radioactive decay. You will also pass this tracer from your body through your urine and stool. To help the radioactive tracer leave your body quicker, drink plenty of fluids for the next 24 hours. It is suggested that you wash your hands thoroughly after using the washroom. There are no restrictions with your regular daily activities.

If you are breastfeeding, please discuss instructions with the technologist.

Worldwide, an increasing number of sensitive radiation detectors have been installed at border crossings, in airports, public transportation facilities, large public events, and other ports of entry around the world. Nuclear Medicine patients are capable of being detected by these detectors.

It is especially important to be aware that **all of the border crossings are equipped with radiation detectors.**

As a Nuclear Medicine patient, you will most likely trigger these detectors. Depending upon the radioactive tracer used for your scan, you **may** be detectable for an extended period of time as indicated below.

This sheet will **not** prevent you from being pulled over at the border; however, it will provide you with an explanation as to why you have triggered a radiation detector. Our feedback from patients tells us that you **may** encounter a delay of 20 to 30 minutes before allowed entrance to the USA. Please know that there is a slight chance you may be denied entrance.

Radioactive Tracer	Number of Days you may be Detectable
99m-Techneium	3
111-Indium	14
67-Gallium	30
201-Thallium	30
131-Iodine (Therapy)	95

Reference:

- i) *Triggering Radiation Alarm at Security Checks: Brief Review*, Hellenic Journal of Nuclear Medicine; January – April 2009; 12(1): 47-50
- ii) IAEA – TECDOC-1312: *Detection of Radioactive Materials at the Border*

If you have any questions in this regard, please call the appropriate Nuclear Medicine Department of the Niagara Health System.

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