

**MUGA Scan – A Nuclear Medicine Exam of Your Heart**

You have been scheduled for a MUGA Scan, which involves the use of a small amount of radioactive material. The level of radioactivity used is extremely low and has no side effects.

You will be positioned next to a special detector called a Gamma Camera. The camera does not produce any radiation. It will be placed close to your heart.

**Patient Information:**

1. Please report to *Goshen Hospital* **15 minutes** prior to your scheduled test time. This time is to allow for the registration process. Please bring your insurance cards.
2. After you are registered, a Nuclear Medicine Technologist will obtain your pertinent medical history, and your test will begin.
3. An I.V. will be placed in your arm or hand.
4. You will be given two injections through the I.V. One is a pharmaceutical and another is a radioactive tracer that “tags” your blood. There is no side effect from either injection. This process takes 30 minutes. During the “tagging” period, you will be made comfortable in a waiting room near the Nuclear Medicine Department. You should bring a book to read or something to keep you busy during this waiting period.
5. After the blood is properly tagged, you will be positioned on an imaging bed. Three EKG electrodes will be placed on your chest and you will be hooked up to an EKG monitor.
6. You will be asked to lie very still while the camera obtains the images.
7. A Gamma Camera will be placed near your heart and you will be asked to lie very still while the camera obtains the images.
8. The pictures take between 20 minutes, depending on how fast your heart beats.
10. The Nuclear Medicine Technologist will present the images to the attending Radiologist for interpretation.

**Patient Preparation:**

- NONE.
- You may eat and drink before the test.
- You may take whatever medications you normally take.
- There are **no restrictions** for a MUGA Study.

**Let the Technologist Know:**

For the success of the scan and for your safety, tells the technologist if you:

- Are pregnant or breastfeeding (*or if there is any chance of pregnancy*).
- Have had a MUGA Study before (*or other tests pertaining to your symptoms*).
- Have had a recent Barium Study or x-rays using contrast.
- Have had any heart surgeries.

You may be asked about your overall health to aid in assessing your images.

**For Best Results:**

Relax and remain as still as you can. This will help ensure that the images taken will be clear and will not have to be repeated.

**Scan Tips:**

- Prepare for the test as instructed.
- Ask how long the test will take.
- Bring something you can do while waiting to have your scan.
- Be ready to talk about your health and any allergies you may *have (it may be helpful to write down surgery dates, medications, etc.)*.

**My Appointment:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: ***Goshen Hospital***  
200 High Park Ave.  
Goshen, Indiana 46526  
574-364-2605

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO KEEP THIS APPOINTMENT, PLEASE CONTACT THE NUCLEAR MEDICINE DEPARTMENT AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF YOUR APPOINTMENT AT 574-364-2605.**

**Notes:**

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**After Your Scan:**

After your test, you may return to your normal routine. The tracer will leave your body within a few days. To hasten this process, drink extra water and urinate frequently for 24 hours after your scan. Your referring physician will receive a written report from the MUGA Study 24-48 hours after your test is complete.

## What is Nuclear Medicine?

Nuclear Medicine is a medical specialty which uses safe, painless and cost-effective techniques both to image the body and treat disease. Nuclear Medicine imaging is unique in that it documents organ function and structure in contrast to Diagnostic Radiology which is based on anatomy. Nuclear Medicine allows your physician to gather medical information which may otherwise be unavailable, require surgery, or necessitate more expensive diagnostic tests.

Nuclear Medicine uses very small amounts of radioactive materials or radiopharmaceuticals to diagnose and treat disease.

Radiopharmaceuticals are substances that are attracted to specific organs, bones or tissues. The radiopharmaceuticals used in Nuclear Medicine emit gamma rays which can be detected externally by special types of cameras called Gamma Cameras. These cameras work in conjunction with computers and are used to create images which provide data and information about the area of the body being imaged.

This patient information sheet was provided to you courtesy of the Goshen Hospital Nuclear Medicine Department as part of our commitment to superior healthcare. This is for informational purposes only and is not intended as a substitute for discussion between you and your physician. Please consult with your physician or a member of our Nuclear Medicine Department staff if you would like more information about specific procedures.



200 High Park Ave.  
Goshen, IN 46526

### *Nuclear Medicine Department*

Phone: 574-364-2605  
Fax: 574-364-2605

## Information for our Nuclear Medicine Patients

*Inform your physician if you are pregnant or  
breast feeding*

### **MUGA STUDY**

#### What is a MUGA Study?

A MUGA Study is a special imaging test. It is used to see how well your heart beats. A MUGA Study uses a small amount of an injected radioactive matter (tracer) and a camera to form an image. It is a type of Nuclear Medicine Scan. Your doctor has decided that the value of this test outweighs any risk.