

About Your Brain Perfusion Scan

What You Need to Know and Do

A brain perfusion scan is a type of brain test that shows the amount of blood in certain areas of your brain. This can help show how your brain is functioning.

The areas of the brain that are very active often show greater blood supply, oxygen supply and the use of glucose. These things may be lower in areas of the brain that are injured or not very active.

What should I do before my appointment?

You may need to stop eating or drinking before the test. You may also need to stop taking your medicine before the test. Talk to us before your test to find out how you need to prepare.

Be sure to tell the radiologist or technologist if you:

- are or think you may be pregnant, or if you are breastfeeding
- are afraid of small, enclosed spaces (claustrophobic).

When should I arrive for my appointment?

You will need to arrive at least 30 minutes before your appointment time to check in and complete paperwork.

You will be asked to remove all objects from your body, including jewelry, eyeglasses, hearing aids, and any metal objects.

You may be asked to remove your makeup. Some makeup contains metal.

What happens during my test?

You will lie down on the exam table.

A nurse or technologist will insert the IV and a tracer will be injected. The tracer will have small amounts of radioactivity. This allows your brain activity to show on the images (pictures).

It may take an hour or so for the tracer to travel through your body. You'll rest quietly during this time.

Once the tracer has moved through your body, the test will begin. You will remain on the exam table and move into the scanner for your imaging. You will need to lie very still during this time.

What happens after my test?

The IV will be removed.

You can usually go back to your normal activities and eat the food you normally eat. The tracer will quickly lose its radioactivity. Your body will naturally remove it through your urine and feces.