

Date: 5/27/2008 Patient: Elizabeth Test

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## **Lung Scan**

### **What is a lung scan?**

A lung scan is a procedure that uses a radioactive chemical to look at your lungs. The chemical is called a radiotracer.

### **When is it used?**

This procedure is done to check for a blood clot in your lung (a pulmonary embolus).

### **How do I prepare for a lung scan?**

Follow your health care provider's instructions.

### **What happens during the procedure?**

The x-ray technologist injects a small amount of radiotracer into a vein in your hand or arm. As the chemical moves through your bloodstream, a special camera records how the blood flows into your lungs. The information creates a picture your health care provider can use to see how well all parts of the lungs are working.

You may also be instructed to breathe a small amount of radiotracer mixed with oxygen through a face mask. You will be asked to breathe in and out and hold your breath. The camera records where the air is going inside your lungs.

### **What happens after the procedure?**

The radiologist sends the complete report to your health care provider. If you do have a blood clot in your lung, you may need to stay in the hospital to have blood thinner medicine (an anticoagulant).

The small amount of radioactivity is not considered dangerous. It will be completely gone from your body within hours to days.

If your test is negative, you should ask your provider if you need more tests and when you need to come back for a checkup.

### **What are the benefits of this procedure?**

This procedure will not cure the problem, but it may help your health care provider make a more accurate diagnosis.

## **What are the risks associated with this procedure?**

Reactions to the radiotracer happen rarely. You should ask your provider how this risk applies to you.

## **When should I call my health care provider?**

Call your health care provider right away if:

- You develop a fever.
- You become short of breath.
- You develop chest pain.

Call your health care provider during office hours if:

- You have questions about the procedure or its result.
- You want to make another appointment.

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