

Nuclear medicine therapy

This fact sheet is designed to provide general information about nuclear medicine therapy and tell you what is involved. Please read it before your treatment. If you have any questions, ask your doctor.

What is nuclear medicine therapy?

Nuclear medicine therapy uses radioactive medication to treat some medical conditions. It is used for some types of arthritis or some cancers, and to relieve the pain from cancer that has spread to bone or other organs.

This treatment can be used to help to control inflammation in the joints of people with arthritis. It can also be used to limit the growth of cancer cells.

Procedure

You will be given instructions on how to prepare for your scan. You might need to avoid certain foods or temporarily stop taking certain medications before the treatment.

You should tell your doctor and the imaging staff if you are incontinent, have any allergies, are breastfeeding, are pregnant or think you may be pregnant.

Depending on the therapy, you might need to swallow a capsule or liquid or you may get an injection. You might have a scan after you have the treatment to show whether the treatment is working.

After the procedure

You will be given instructions about safety precautions. You will be slightly radioactive, so you might be required to:

- restrict close contact with other people for a few days
- wash your hands well before preparing food
- take extra care when going to the toilet.

Sometimes you might be required to stay in hospital for a short time to avoid contact with others. This is only while the level of radiation goes down. The advice you are given will depend on your treatment.

A nuclear medicine physician (a specialist doctor) will record the details of your treatment and send a report to your treating doctor.

Risks involved

You will be given a dose of radiation as treatment. The benefits of treating disease outweigh any potential risk from receiving the dose. The dose of radiation will be as low as possible and will be personalised for your treatment.

Allergic reactions are very rare and almost always minor. Some therapies may have side effects. Your treating doctor will discuss these with you prior to your treatment.

For more information

Nuclear medicine: Answering your questions by the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation: www.ansto.gov.au/cs/groups/corporate/documents/webcontent/mdaw/mdax/~edisp/acstest_038604.pdf

The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency: www.arpansa.gov.au

For more information, please contact:

LHD:

Name:

Phone:

Email: