

GETTING A SCAN?

Follow these **5** simple steps to protect yourself

- ▶ Nuclear medicine scans are an important part of your care journey.
- ▶ You should be aware that health care providers currently aren't required to report errors called extravasations, which is when a radioactive drug is accidentally injected into healthy arm tissue instead of a vein prior to a SPECT/PET scan.
- ▶ Extravasations can compromise the images that drive your care and may expose you to high doses of radiation.
- ▶ Scans can be stressful, but you can advocate for yourself to ensure you have safe, transparent, and effective nuclear medicine care.

1

Call your nuclear center a day before your scan. Tell them you understand that an extravasation, the accidental injection of radiation into the arm tissue around the vein, can be a complication of this procedure, so, you have a few requests. If you don't feel comfortable asking these requests of the nuclear medicine center, ask your doctor to make these requests on your behalf.

2

Request that they use an ultrasound device to help gain venous access for the injection.

3

Ask the center to monitor the injection with the latest technology or show an image of the injection site to ensure the radioactive drug did not enter tissue. If you were extravasated, the image will show a black spot at or near your injection site.

4

If there is radiation in the tissue, ask the center to tell you how much and to make a note in the medical record. Extravasation symptoms vary and there may not be visible signs of underlying tissue injury. Ask for written information to help identify symptoms, and when they could develop.

5

Inform your care team if an extravasation occurred so they can assess the impact and make appropriate decisions about repeating the scan and about treatment.

Know there is support out there. Contact us at safernuclearmedicine.org and we will connect you with local resources to ensure your scans are safe and accurate.

Learn more at safernuclearmedicine.org

 twitter.com/SaferNuclear

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