

# Nuclear Medicine Patient Information

## Brain DaTscan Imaging

Welcome to VCU Health Nuclear Medicine. We are located in the Gateway Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 1200 East Marshall Street. Our hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7 am to 5 pm. Advanced scheduling is required for all nuclear medicine exams. Please review the following information about your test. Please call (804) 828-6828 to schedule your test or if you have any questions about your nuclear medicine exam.

### What is it?

Imaging to look at dopamine transporters in the brain.

### Why are you having this test?

DaTscan is a test that is used to look for dopamine transporters (DaT) in the brain. During the scan, pictures are taken of your brain to show how much dopamine is present. This test helps your doctor find the cause of tremors, such as Parkinson's disease.

### Preparing for the test

- No patient preparation.
- Take your medications as prescribed.
- Bring a picture ID and insurance information.
- Bring with you a current list of medications (including Over the Counter, Herbal, Vitamins, Supplements, etc.) and current allergies.
- Please arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment.

### What to expect during the test

- The test will take 5 – 6 hours.
- You will be given a potassium iodide tablet to swallow to protect your Thyroid gland.
- A needle (IV) will be placed in a vein (intravenous catheter).

- A radioactive tracer will be administered through the IV.
- You will lie down while the camera takes pictures of your whole body.
- 3 hours after your first picture you will lie down while the camera takes a picture of your brain for 35 minutes.
- You may go on with normal activities in between your injection and scan (eat and drink as normal).

### After Care Information

- You may return to all your normal activities.
- Most of the radioactive tracer leaves your body through your urine. Drinking extra fluids may help the tracer leave your body faster.

### Contact information if questions or concerns

- Any Questions: Please contact us at (804) 828-6828 and ask to speak to a Nuclear Medicine Technologist. After hours, please call (804) 828-3699.

### Follow-Up Care after the procedure

- Results will be available in 1-2 business days.
- For Results: Please contact the Physician that ordered your test.