Our team of subspecialty-trained radiologists, qualified imaging technologists and compassionate professional staff come together to provide a continuum of care for you and your healthcare provider. Your comfort is our main concern. When you are confident and at ease, we’ll get the best results for you and your healthcare provider. Our team makes it easy to schedule appointments, to help you prepare for your exam, and ensures you a comfortable and quality experience.

We are conveniently located throughout the Twin Cities area to provide easy access for your imaging needs:
- Blaine
- Burnsville
- Coon Rapids
- Maple Grove
- Northwest
- Southdale
- The Breast Center

We offer the following services:
- MRI
- CT
- PET/CT
- Ultrasound
- Spinal & Joint Injections
- Nuclear Medicine
- Vascular Center
- X-ray
- Bone Density
- Mammography
- Breast Diagnostic Services

Nuclear medicine therapies
Thyroid therapy
Thyroid therapy is used to treat hyperthyroidism/Grave's disease, goiters, thyroid nodules and thyroid cancer. A nuclear medicine technologist and radiologist will educate and review material with you prior to any therapy you receive.

Gastric emptying
Gastric emptying is an exam that measures how quickly food empties from the stomach. This study is performed when patients have nausea, abdominal pain, vomiting or diarrhea after eating.

For this exam, a nuclear medicine technologist will give you a meal of eggs or oatmeal to eat with a small amount of tracer added to it. Images will then be taken for the next hour and a half.

Thyroid uptake and scan
A thyroid uptake and scan provides information about the structure (size, shape, position) and function of the thyroid gland. Located in front of the neck, below the Adam’s apple, the gland controls metabolism. An uptake and scan determines if the gland is working properly and can detect abnormalities such as nodules.

Prior to your exam, you may need to have blood drawn so that thyroid hormone levels can be measured. You may also be instructed not to eat for several hours before and after your exam. You will come to Suburban Imaging and swallow a capsule containing tracer. The next day you will return for the scanning portion, which takes about 30 minutes. Another type of thyroid scan, called a whole-body thyroid scan, evaluates thyroid cancer and determines if it has spread to other areas.

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What is nuclear medicine?

Nuclear medicine uses a safe and painless technique to monitor, diagnose and treat medical conditions or other abnormalities within the body. Nuclear medicine is most commonly used to analyze the thyroid gland, lungs, gallbladder, kidneys and bones. It can also treat hyperthyroidism/Graves’ disease, goiters, thyroid nodules and thyroid cancer.

Nuclear medicine exams use very small amounts of radioactive material, called radiopharmaceuticals or tracers. The tracer is injected or swallowed. The tracer will be injected to a specific area of the body and collect in the area being studied. Consequently, the images captured by the gamma camera and computer produce images that show how and where the tracer travels through the body and measure the amount of tracer absorbed. The camera and computer produce images that show the function and structure (size, shape) of an organ, tissue, bone or body system.

The images captured by the gamma camera and computer system are then studied and analyzed by a subspecialty board-certified radiologist, a doctor who has extensive training and expertise in medical imaging.

Nuclear medicine procedures are among the safest diagnostic exams available. Common types of nuclear medicine exams include:

- Bone scan
- Hepatobiliary (gallbladder) scan

Bone scans are used to detect arthritis, neoplasms, fractures and sports injuries, tumors and metastatic disease, as well as evaluate unexplained bone pain. Images will be taken of a specific area or the entire body. Bone scans will be compared with previous scans or an x-ray to obtain the most information.

Hepatobiliary (gallbladder) scan

Hepatobiliary, or gallbladder, scans are used to evaluate gallbladder function. For this exam, tracer is injected into a vein in your arm. Because it takes several hours for the tracer to be absorbed by the bones, you may leave Suburban Imaging and return later for the imaging portion of the exam, which takes about 30 to 45 minutes.

What happens during your exam – step 2

The second step of the nuclear medicine exam is the imaging portion, or scan. During the scan, you will lie on a cushioned exam table and may be asked to change into a gown. For the best quality images, you must remain as still as possible. Any movement may distort the images, making them difficult to interpret.

To capture the images, the gamma camera may be in close proximity to you, but will not completely surround you. There is no radiation from the camera.

Depending on the exam, the imaging portion varies in length of time – from 20 minutes to a few hours and may be repeated for several days.

After your exam

Your images will be interpreted by a board-certified radiologist (medical doctor) specializing in body imaging. The findings will be sent to your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will contact you to discuss the results.

Suburban Imaging

quality medical imaging
experienced subspecialty radiologists
state-of-the-art technology

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Hepatobiliary (gallbladder) scan

Hepatobiliary, or gallbladder, scans are used to evaluate gallbladder function. For this exam, tracer is injected into a vein in your arm through an IV line, which is later removed. The gamma camera will capture an image continuously to monitor when the gallbladder becomes enlarged, which can take about an hour.

Some patients may also receive an injection of CCK (cholecystokinin) through the IV line. CCK makes the gallbladder contract, enabling the camera to capture images showing gallbladder function. Images will be taken continuously for up to an hour.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please call:

Coon Rapids: 763.792.1900  |  NorthWest: 763.795.1600
Southdale: 952.893.0000