Brain SPECT Scan for Seizures

About the test
A brain SPECT scan is like a computed tomography (CT) scan of the brain. SPECT stands for single photon emission computed tomography. The scan shows the blood flow in your brain. The test compares results from a scan done during a seizure (ictal) and a scan done between seizures (interictal). During a seizure, the blood flow increases in the part of the brain where the seizure starts. In between seizures, the blood flow can be less than normal to the part of the brain where the seizure started. The blood flow measures during and between seizures can help to find where in your brain your seizures start.

The material used in the scan, called a tracer, has a very low dose of radioactivity. It is safe, and will not make you feel differently. The scan will not cause any pain. You do not need to limit food or drink before this test. You may have a second brain SPECT scan the next day.

If you are breast feeding, pregnant, or think you may be pregnant, tell the radiologist or technologist before you have this scan.

During the test
• You will be given an injection of the tracer through an IV in your arm.
• You will be placed on a table with your arms down at your sides.
• A strap will be placed over your chin and forehead to remind you to hold your head still.
• A camera will rotate around you to create a 3D image, which takes about 35 minutes.

For the scan during a seizure, the procedure is the same. When a seizure starts, your nurse will inject you with the tracer. You will be go back to the scan area and pictures will be taken again.

Your test date and location
Your test has been scheduled at ____________________ on _________________________.

University Hospital, 410 W. 10th Avenue, Columbus OH 43210
Doan Hall, 2nd floor, Nuclear Medicine, Room 211. Take the Doan Hall elevators to the 2nd floor. Go to Radiology Registration to the right of the elevators.

If you have any questions about this scan, ask your doctor or technologist, or call 614-293-5774.

Talk to your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.
For more health information, contact the Library for Health Information at 614-293-3707 or e-mail health-info@osu.edu.

© 2009 - January 13, 2017, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.