**DaTscan Brain Imaging**

**About the 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.

The material that allows us to take pictures of your brain, called a tracer, contains a very small amount of radioactivity. This test will result in very low radiation exposure. You will have 2 appointments for this test, the screening and the scan.

*If you are breastfeeding, pregnant, or think you might be, tell the radiologist or technologist before the scan.*

**Screening appointment**
- This visit will be about 2 weeks before your scan appointment and will last about 30 minutes.
- During this appointment, the scan will be explained and you will get instructions for taking the potassium iodide pill before your next appointment. This pill blocks the radioactivity from going to your thyroid gland. Please ask if you do not understand how to take this pill. There are no side effects from this pill.
- Bring a list of all medicines you are taking, including any prescriptions or over the counter medicines, vitamins, or herbs.
- You will be seen by a pharmacist to talk about any medicines you are taking.
- Tell the pharmacist and the technologist if you:
  - Are allergic to iodine
  - Have kidney or liver problems
  - Have been sensitive to DaTscan in the past
  - Are not able to lie flat for 35 minutes

**Scan appointment**
- **Take the potassium iodide pill with juice 1 hour before your appointment.** It may taste salty.
- You do not need to limit food or fluids before this scan.
- There are two parts to this appointment. Part one is getting the tracer. It must be in your body several hours before the scan.

**Part 1: Tracer Put Into Your Body**
- An IV will be started in your arm.
You should drink extra fluids and go to the bathroom often for the next two days to help clear the tracer medicine out of your body.

You can return to your normal activity and diet.

The results of your scan will be sent to your doctor and shared with you. If you have not heard about the results in 2 weeks, check with your doctor’s office.

A DaTscan is an important test. Please ask your doctor or technologist if you have any questions.

Your test dates and location

Your 1st appointment is scheduled at ________________ on _____________________. Expect that you will be at the hospital about 30 minutes.

Your 2nd appointment is scheduled at ________________ on _____________________. Be sure to take your iodide pill 1 hour before this appointment. Expect that you will be at the hospital for 4 to 6 hours.

Your test is scheduled at:

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

If you need to change your appointment, call Radiology Scheduling at 614-293-4333.

If you have a question about your test, please call Nuclear Medicine at 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.