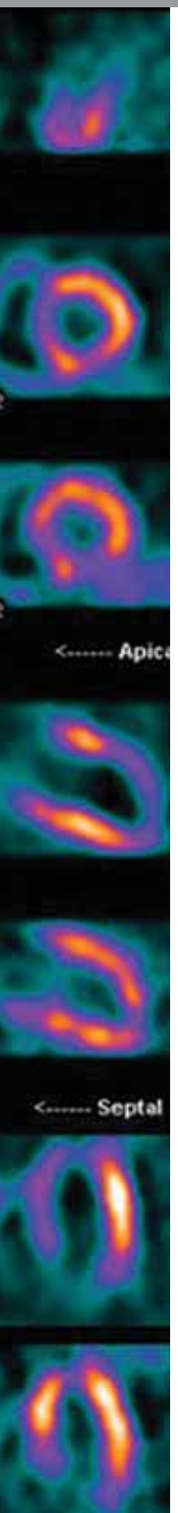
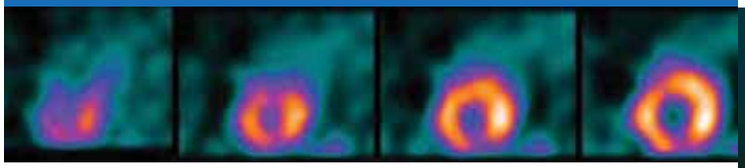


Myocardial Perfusion Imaging (MPI)

This nuclear imaging study is a non-invasive, time-tested procedure to test for critical coronary stenosis. MPI represents 94 percent of all cardiovascular procedures performed using nuclear imaging. With improved diagnostic accuracy over regular stress tests, abnormal perfusion scans are highly indicative of coronary artery disease.

PURPOSE OF MPI

The diagnostic and prognostic study determines the degree and location of compromised blood flow to the heart as well as pumping function and existence of scarred heart tissue. Healthy heart muscle, receiving normal blood flow, will accumulate more imaging agent than cardiac muscle supplied by diseased coronary arteries. MPI is used to determine need for invasive procedures, to avoid unwarranted hospital admissions or discharges, and to assess for long-term prognosis.



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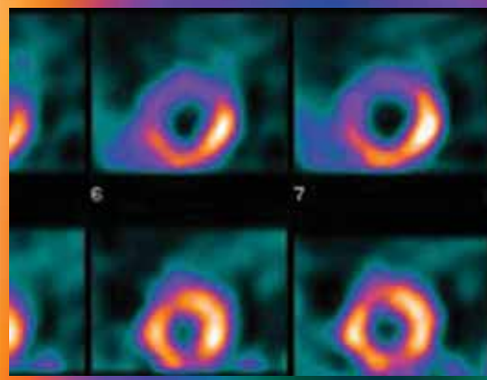
Nuclear Cardiology FOUNDATION

PATIENT AWARENESS INITIATIVE

Myocardial Perfusion Imaging (MPI)



Myocardial Perfusion Imaging

PATIENT AWARENESS INITIATIVE

CANDIDATES FOR MPI

The study is indicated for patients with known or suspected coronary artery disease, including those who have had cardiac events or may be at risk. Populations at an increased risk for heart disease include diabetics and menopausal women. In addition to the more commonly known symptoms of chest pain and shortness of breath, several of the lesser-known symptoms of heart disease may include nausea, fatigue, and pain in the arm, back or neck.

With improved diagnostic accuracy over regular stress tests, abnormal perfusion scans are highly indicative of coronary artery disease.

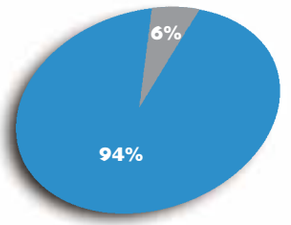
PROCEDURE DESCRIPTION

MPI is performed during stress and again at rest while monitoring for blood pressure and heart rhythm via ECG. Patients' arteries are dilated and they are subject to stress, usually through exercise, but a pharmacologically induced stress test may be performed when patients cannot exercise. A small dose of a radiopharmaceutical is injected into the bloodstream at maximum exercise. Patients then wait approximately 60 minutes prior to a subsequent scan using a gamma camera (SPECT technology) which produces images representing blood flow to the heart during stress. Injection and scanning are repeated at rest, often on a separate day, with no significant changes appearing in healthy hearts during either study.

TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES

The radioactive tracer distributes in proportion to blood flow, with greater concentration where there is better blood flow. These sophisticated imaging agents significantly increase accuracy of nuclear cardiac testing. The gamma camera further improves diagnostic accuracy because SPECT images are reformatted to represent images perpendicular to the long and short axes of the heart to identify affected sites.

MPI represents 94 percent of all cardiovascular procedures performed using nuclear imaging.



Instructing your patients

To ensure accurate results, patients should not ingest caffeine, drinks labeled "caffeine-free," chocolate, theophylline, dipyridamole or aspirin for 24 hours prior to testing. The patient may be instructed to avoid additional food and drink by the nuclear cardiologist. Diabetic and insulin-dependent patients will require consultation on dietary restrictions and insulin use.

To prepare patients for testing, please provide them with the additional information below:

- **Myocardial perfusion imaging determines if patients have coronary artery disease.**
- **The test may be performed in two phases: after exercise and again during rest. Completing both phases may take two to five hours and might be done over two days.**
- **Patients are injected with a small amount of a radioactive substance (no more than in a chest x-ray). They lie on their backs while a blood pressure cuff is placed around the arm and an IV is inserted into the arm or hand to ease the flow of the injection. Pads are attached to the chest so the physician can monitor heart rhythm with an electrocardiograph (ECG).**
- **The patient exercises and then is scanned with a special camera to determine which areas of the heart are receiving enough blood.**
- **For patients who can't exercise, there are alternative ways to perform the test.**
- **Patients should wear loose-fitting, comfortable clothing suitable for exercise.**
- **Women who suspect they may be pregnant should tell their doctors.**

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For more information on MPI, please go to the Web site of the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology: **www.asnc.org**