Lung V/Q Scan

What is a lung V/Q scan?
This scan is used to determine if there is a blood clot in your lung.

How should I prepare for a lung V/Q scan?
There is no prep for this scan.

How long does the test take?
The test takes 30-45 minutes. There are two parts to the test, a breathing part and an injection. For the breathing part you will be asked to breathe in and out through a tube that is placed in your mouth and your nose will be clamped off. In the tube will be a small amount of radioactive particles that will allow us to visualize the air flow to your lungs. After you are done breathing there will be a series of images taken of your lungs. The second part of the test is an injection of a radioactive isotope given in a vein in your arm. There are no side effects to this injection and it does not make you feel any different. After the injection there will be another series of images taken which allows us to visualize the blood flow to your lungs. The doctor will compare these two sets of images to determine if there may be a blood clot in your lung.

How soon will the scan results be available?
A radiologist will interpret the images, write a report, and deliver the results to your doctor via the internal computer system.

It is essential to tell your doctor if you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant before undergoing this scan because of radiation exposure.

If you would need to cancel your appointment please notify the Nuclear Medicine department as soon as possible at 216.444.2807.

This information is provided by Cleveland Clinic and is not intended to replace the medical advice of your doctor or health care provider. Please consult your health care provider for advice about a specific medical condition.