Diamox Brain Scan

What is a Diamox brain scan?
This scan is used to assess cerebral vascular reserve in patients with known cerebral vascular stenosis.

How should I prepare for a Zevalin study?
There is know prep for the scan. If you are allergic to sulfa containing drugs please notify the technologist prior to the exam. Also if you have had a stroke within 3 days the Radiologist may want to re-schedule this scan.

How long does the test take?
This test takes approximately 2 ½ hours to complete. When you arrive to the nuclear medicine department the technologist will first place an IV in your arm because there will be several injections during this study. You will then be positioned on the imaging table and given the first injection of the radioactive isotope. There are no side effects to this injection; it will not make you feel any different. The room will be dimly lit and quiet while the injection circulates for about 15 minutes. Then the technologist will position you under the camera and it will rotate around your head. You will be asked to hold very still for the duration of the scan. After these images are finished the Radiologist will inject Diamox® through your IV. Diamox® is a vasodilator and could make you feel warm and flush and it acts like a diuretic so it is important that prior to the study you empty your bladder. Fifteen minutes after Diamox® is injected you will then be given another injection of the radioactive isotope and the same set of images will be taken.

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. This process usually takes less than 24 hours.

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.