Octreotide Scan

What is an Octreotide scan?
An Octreotide scan is used for localization of primary and metastatic neuroendocrine tumors bearing somatostatin receptors.

How should I prepare for an Octreotide scan?
There is no special prep for this exam

How long does the test take?
There are typically 3 visits to the Nuclear Medicine Department in order to complete this test. On your first visit a small injection of a radioactive isotope will be injected into a vein. There are no side effects to this injection. After that is complete you will be able to leave the department with a scheduled time to return in 4-6 hours. When you return for your second visit there will be a series of images taken. You will be asked to remove all external metal from your body and lie onto our imaging table. First the technologist will scan your body from head to knees. This scan takes about 20 minutes. These images will be shown to the radiologist and the radiologist will determine if another set of images is needed on this day. If needed, the technologist will take another set of images called a SPECT/CT. This is a tomographic set of images combined with a non-diagnostic CT for attenuation correction and takes about 25 minutes. You will then be scheduled to return the next day for the same set of images as described above. There will be no more injections. Seldom patients will be asked to return for 48 hour post injection images.

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.