

LUNG PERFUSION SCANS

What are they used for?

Lung perfusions scans, also known as pulmonary perfusion scintigraphy, are used to record the distribution of blood flow through your lungs. If there is a blockage such as a pulmonary embolism, there will be poor blood perfusion to the affected lobe.

What is involved?

Immediately after injection of radiotracer, images of your chest are taken. The radiotracer travels through the arteries in your lungs, which is then detected by the camera. A series of images are taken of your chest area from a number of angles which usually take about 15 minutes. A localized area of decreased uptake, usually in a wedge shape, may suggest a pulmonary embolus or blood clot in the lungs, which leads to reduced blood flow beyond the obstruction. This means the radiotracer can't travel beyond the embolus, and the images of the lung will appear patchy.

How should I prepare?

There is no preparation for a thyroid scan. Like all nuclear medicine scans at TeleMed, Lung Perfusion Scans are bulk billed and so it is important that you bring your Medicare card with you on the day.