



Kidney (GFR) Scintigraphy

Nuclear scintigraphy (also known as nuclear medicine) is the imaging specialty that involves the use of radioactive isotopes in the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

In nuclear medicine, a radioisotope is introduced into the body and the isotope is then taken up in different amounts by different organs. A diagnosis is made in nuclear medicine by imaging the distribution of the radioactive element within the body.

The radiation emitted from the radioisotope is detected by a scintillation counter (this is why nuclear medicine is referred to as nuclear scintigraphy) and an image of the radioactivity is produced.

GFR - glomerular filtration rate is the best test to measure your pet's kidney function. We are able to tell how well each individual kidney is functioning and your pet's total kidney function. Your pet will receive a radioisotope via an intravenous catheter and will be gently held in front of our gamma camera to obtain images of the kidneys.

Most of our patients will be released the same day as their procedure, but some may require overnight hospitalization. We cannot release your pet to you immediately after their procedure because we need to allow the radioactivity to decay before they are released from the hospital.

When you return to pick up your pet, you will be given preliminary findings from the study. One of our technicians will discuss the images from the GFR with you and one of our doctors will contact your veterinarian. A written report and the images from the study will also be sent your veterinarian.