

CSF Leakage Determination

Department of the test: Nuclear Medicine (NM)

Purpose of the test:

To assess the normal and abnormal pathways of cerebral spinal fluid drainage (the fluid found in the spinal cord and around your brain).

Notes before the test:

1. You will have some radiation in this test.
2. Preparation before your test is not required.
3. Please don't bring pregnant women or children with you. We don't want to expose them to unnecessary radiation.

On the day of the test:

1. Please check in first at our NM service counter.
2. Our NM physician will ask you a few questions of your personal medical history.
3. You will be kept on a stretcher for at least 4 hours following the injection.
4. The injection of a radioactive tracer into the cerebral spinal fluid is given as a lumbar puncture (insertion of the needle into the lower back) by our NM physician or anesthetist.
5. After the injection, NM physician will insert the pledgets (small pieces of medical cotton) in your nose and ears if there is a leakage of the spinal fluid through them. The pledgets will be removed at the end of the first day.
6. Pictures will be taken to follow the natural flow of the tracer in the cerebral spinal fluid.
7. You will return the next day for 24-hour delayed pictures.

Total duration of the test:

1. At least 6 hours with breaks in between on the first day.
2. At least 30 minutes on the second day.

Adverse drug effect of the test: You may get a headache from the lumbar puncture injection.