

Octreotide Study

How to prepare

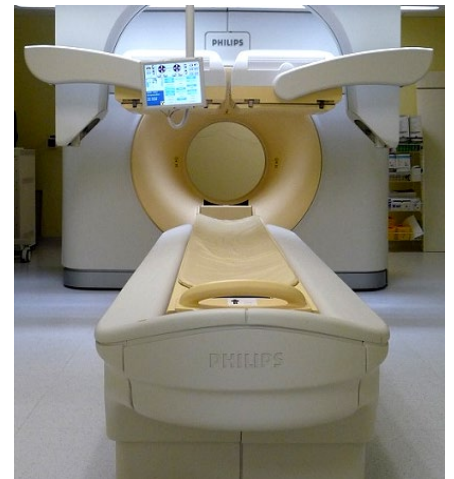
An octreotide study is a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure. This handout explains how to prepare for the study, how it works, how it is done, what you may feel during the study, and how to get your results.

What is an octreotide study?

An *octreotide study* is done in Nuclear Medicine to diagnose tumors. It involves injecting a radioactive substance called a *tracer* into your vein. The tracer used for this study is called *Indium-111 octreotide*.

After the tracer is injected, it is taken up by *somatostatin receptors* in your body. There are many of these receptors in *carcinoid* tumors (malignant tumors, often in the digestive tract), multiple *myelomas* (bone marrow tumors), and *endocrine* tumors (tumors in the glands).

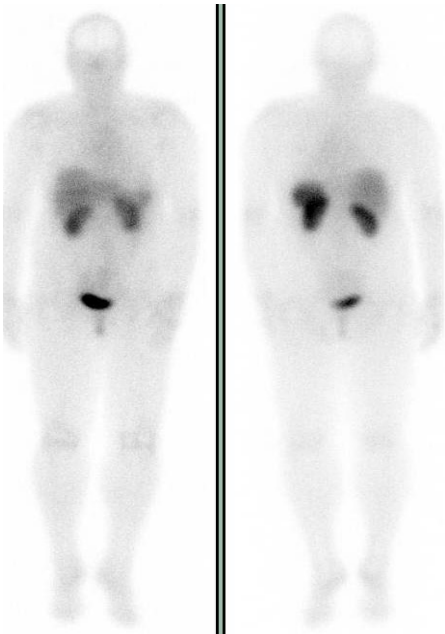
Next, we will use a SPECT/CT gamma camera to take images of your body. We take these images 4 hours, 24 hours, and sometimes 48 hours after you receive the injection. The images will show where the radiotracer was taken up. This tells your doctor the size and location of any tumors.



We will use a SPECT/CT gamma camera to take images of your body in the octreotide study.

How do I prepare?

- **Drink plenty of fluids** while you are doing this study.
- **Take a mild laxative:**
 - The night before the injection
 - Each night before imaging is done
- If your therapy involves **octreotide, pasireotide, or lanreotide injections**, you **may** need to pause taking your medicine before your octreotide study. (See “Scheduling Your Study” on page 2.)



This is an example of images taken of a patient during an octreotide study. The dark areas show where tracer was taken up.

- *If you were assigned female at birth:* Tell your provider if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, or if there is any chance you could be pregnant.

Scheduling Your Study

Follow these instructions when planning for your study:

- **Sandostatin (octreotide):** This drug is given every day. You must **not** take this drug for 24 hours before your GA-68 study. Talk with the doctor who prescribed this drug. Find out if it is OK to pause your medicine for this study.
- **Sandostatin LAR (octreotide):** This drug is given every 4 weeks. Schedule your GA-68 study for 1 to 2 days **before** your next injection.
- **Signifor (pasireotide):** This drug is given 2 times a day. Talk with the doctor who prescribed this drug. Find out if it is OK to pause your medicine for this study. Then call Nuclear Medicine Scheduling at 206.598.4240 to find out when to schedule your GA-68 study.
- **Signifor LAR (pasireotide):** This drug is given every 4 weeks. Schedule your GA-68 study for 1 to 2 days **before** your next injection.
- **Somatuline Depot (lanreotide):** This drug is given every 4 weeks. Schedule your GA-68 study for 1 to 2 days **before** your next injection.

How is the study done?

- When you arrive, the technologist will review the procedure with you and tell your attending doctor that you are in the clinic.
- *If you were assigned female at birth:* Tell the technologist if there is any chance you could be pregnant.
- We will place an *intravenous* (IV) line in your arm vein and inject the tracer. The technologist will then remove the IV. After that, you may leave.

For Insulinoma Patients

- We will check your blood sugar level before the study begins.
- We will give you a sugar solution just before and while the tracer is given. This will help avoid *hypoglycemia* (low blood sugar).

4 Hours Later

You will return about 4 hours later so that we can take images of your body. You will be scanned from head to toe. You must hold very still.

The imaging takes about 1 to 3 hours, depending on what images your doctor needs. The SPECT/CT gamma camera is very quiet.

Your doctor may also ask for 3-D images to be taken, along with a low-dose CT scan.

24 Hours Later

You will return the next day (about 24 hours later) for more imaging. This session will last about 1 to 3 hours, depending on the images your doctor needs.

48 Hours Later

We **may** ask you to return for 1 more session about 48 hours after we give you the injection. This imaging session will last about 1 to 3 hours, depending on the images your doctor needs.

What will I feel during the study?

- Most people feel normal during this study.
- Insulinoma patients may have a drop in blood sugar.

Who interprets the results and how do I get them?

When the test is over, the nuclear medicine doctor will review your images, prepare a written report, and talk with your provider about the results.

Your provider will then talk with you about the results and your treatment options. You and your provider will decide the next step, such as treatment for a problem, as needed.

You may also read your results on your MyChart page. If you need copies of your images on disc, call 206.598.6206.

Ask your provider if you need to restart any medicines that you stopped for this study.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns.

- UWMC Imaging Services:
206.598.6200
- Harborview Radiology:
206.744.3105