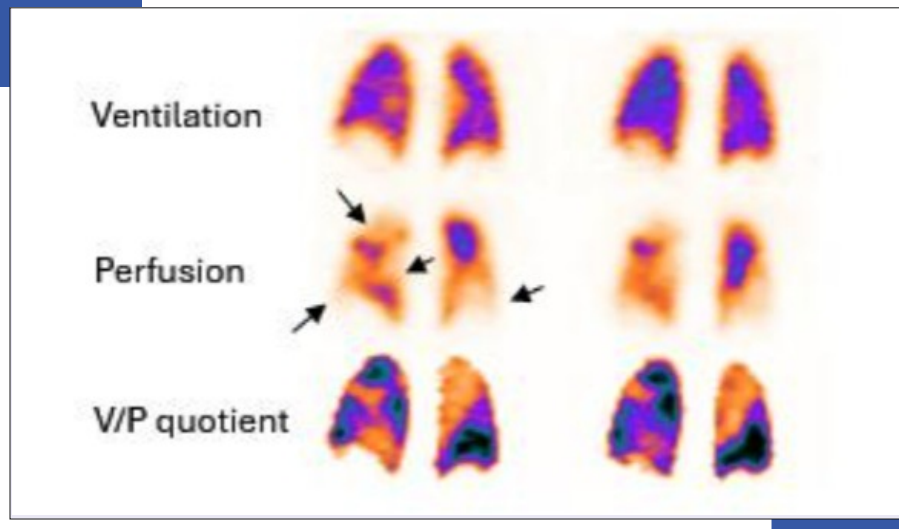




Understanding Lung Perfusion Scan

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What is a Lung Perfusion Scan?

A Lung Perfusion Scan is a specialised nuclear medicine imaging test that is used to evaluate the blood flow into the lungs. A small amount of a radioactive substance is injected, and the distribution of this radioactive tracer is seen on imaging, such as a gamma camera. This scan helps doctors evaluate reduced or abnormal blood flow in the lungs.

Why is it Performed?

A Lung Perfusion Scan is suggested when doctors want to assess the flow of blood in the lungs, for instance when a pulmonary embolism or some other disorder of pulmonary blood flow is suspected. It is also helpful in patients to measure lung function and prior to some surgical procedures. The results are considered with the clinical examination, symptoms and medical history, and other investigations of the patient.

Preparation

- Inform the medical team if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.
- Share details of your current medicines and any relevant medical conditions.
- Bring previous chest X-rays, CT scans, or other relevant reports if available.
- Follow any specific food, medicine, or preparation instructions provided by the medical team.

Procedure

A radioactive tracer is injected into a vein in a small dose. The tracer is transported through the blood to the lungs. The patient is positioned comfortably, and the gamma camera images the lungs in various views in accordance with the imaging protocol. Acquisition of images requires the use of stasis. Overall procedure time is dependent on the protocol and the patient's requirements.

Important Instructions

- Follow all instructions provided by the nuclear medicine team.
- Remain still and relaxed while images are being captured.
- Inform the medical staff if you experience discomfort or have any concerns.
- Provide complete information about your medicines, allergies, and relevant medical conditions.
- Inform the team about pregnancy or breastfeeding before the examination.
- Follow any instructions regarding food, medicines, or fluids.
- Follow the recommended post-scan instructions provided by the medical team.
- Maintain adequate fluids after the scan if advised and if there are no medical restrictions.

Safety Precautions

The scan uses the appropriate dose of radioactive material and is administered with the required expertise in medical care. The patient's clinical needs are met with appropriate safety measures. Make sure that the medical staff is aware of the patient's medical history, medicines, allergies, pregnancy, and breastfeeding before the examination.

When to Seek Medical Attention?

If you experience sudden or severe breathing difficulty, chest pain, fainting, or other serious symptoms, seek urgent medical attention. For questions regarding preparation, medicines, or post-scan care, consult the medical team. At Molecular Diagnostics and Therapy, Lung Perfusion Scans are performed following nuclear medicine protocols under specialist supervision, with attention to patient safety and comfort.