

TRA Imaging News

PRINTED FOR THE REFERRING PROVIDERS OF TRA MEDICAL IMAGING CENTERS

NUCLEAR MEDICINE AT TRA TACOMA



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Nuclear medicine images body metabolism and physiology as well as anatomy (i.e. x-ray). This happens

by injecting a patient with radiopharmaceuticals specific to certain metabolic functions. For instance, bone agents go to bone. The nuclear medicine camera can then detect the specific area relevant to the diagnostic dilemma of the patient. Radiologists then interpret those images and a report is sent back to the doctor's office. TRA Medical Imaging Centers would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the exciting nuclear medicine studies available at our outpatient facility in Tacoma.

TOTAL BODY BONE SCANS

A total body bone scan involves incorporating a molecule into the bone matrix to show areas undergoing bony repair or remodeling. For example, if a patient has an abnormal x-ray and the provider is not sure of the cause of pain, a bone scan will show if that area is active.

General indications include looking for tumor, fracture, infection, or arthritis. The bone scan is still the easiest way to evaluate the entire skeleton for metastatic disease. Total body bone scans can also be utilized prior to facet injection to localize facet disease.

LUNG SCANS

Lung scans are used in quantifying pulmonary function in someone with emphysema or lung cancer prior to surgery, as well as evaluating for pulmonary emboli (PE). Although CT pulmonary angiography has largely replaced nuclear lung scans for the evaluation of PE, there are still occasional patients that cannot undergo

CT. Extremely large patients or ones with contrast allergy can still be evaluated with lung scans.

CARDIAC EVALUATION

Cardiac evaluation in nuclear medicine includes gated blood pool scans as well as gated tomographic perfusion imaging. These scans look at gated cardiac function in regards to

possible ischemia and potential chemotherapy induced myocardial toxicity. Please keep in mind though, PET scans are the most sensitive way to look for ischemic heart disease and myocardial viability.

INFECTIONS

Nuclear medicine is very sensitive for the detection of occult infection, especially osteomyelitis. Gallium and labeled white cell scans for imaging of infections and FUO are available at TRA's Tacoma office. However, in the future, PET scanning may become the preferred test as it is clearly more sensitive for the detection of infection.

Unfortunately, Medicare does not currently reimburse for this indication.

BILIARY (HIDA) SCANS

Biliary scans are used to evaluate the liver and gallbladder in the setting of right upper quadrant pain and gallbladder dysfunction. Additionally, they can be used to evaluate for potential bile-reflux.

GASTRIC EMPTYING

Gastric emptying studies measure the rate of emptying of the stomach after the patient eats a specially prepared meal containing a small amount of radioactivity. Normal values for emptying are well established.



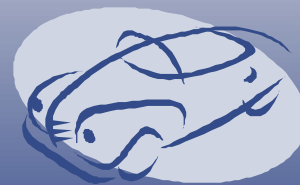
A Total Body Bone Scan done at TRA-Tacoma

FOCUS ON:

Improved Parking at TRA - Tacoma

In an effort to provide better service to patients referred to TRA-Tacoma, TRA has worked diligently with the building owners to improve parking at 2202 S. Cedar Street. On February 22, 2003, TRA improved parking by making current stalls wider, increasing the number of 'patient designated' stalls, and eliminating the tandem stalls to allow for wider driving aisles. The driveway has also been turned into a one-way, with the entrance on Cedar street and exit on 23rd street.

Also, in a concerted effort from TRA and other building tenants, employee parking has now been designated off-site to allow for more patient parking. These same forces combined to erect a sign on the corner of 23rd and Cedar streets, to better identify the 2202 S Cedar Street building and its tenants.



This is useful for helping treat people with nausea, vomiting, or fullness after eating. This is also the most sensitive way to test for gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD).

THYROID SCANS

Thyroid scans use radioactive iodine to diagnose and treat thyroid diseases such as thyroid nodules or abnormal thyroid function. Additionally, TRA has a special license to allow for treatment of hyperthyroidism or thyroid abnormality with up to 30 mci doses of I131.

LYMPHOSCINTIGRAPHY

Lymphoscintigraphy is indicated for sentinel node demonstrations in carcinoma of breast and melanoma.

RENAL SCANS

For evaluation of hypertension or renal dysfunction, renal scans are the appropriate nuclear medicine study. They are also used in the evaluation of residual function in patients with congenital anomalies or prior infection/trauma.

CO-REGISTRATION IMAGING

An added capability of TRA's nuclear medicine department is the ability for anatomic fusion of digital x-ray, CT, or MRI images with our nuclear medicine images. For instance, TRA can fuse a current bone scan with a previous digital x-ray to better localize the abnormality.

ProstaScint, a scan utilized at TRA-Tacoma for the diagnosis of prostate cancer, is dependent upon this

technology. The nuclear scan requires fusion with the original data from CT or MRI to be able to show the full extent and anatomic location of the tumor. Studies done at any TRA outpatient location are easily available for fusion with these nuclear studies.

Coming Up....

**PET in Oncology:
A Clinician's Perspective**
Drs. Frank Senecal &
Anthony Larhs
Wednesday, April 30th, 7-8:30 am
Landmark Convention Center
RSVP: (253) 761-4200

**Functional Neuroimaging
in Current Clinical Practice**
Drs. (Paul) David Mozley, Jr. &
Anthony Larhs
Wednesday, May 14th, 7-8:30 am
Landmark Convention Center
RSVP: (253) 761-4200

TRA NEWS

TRA Imaging News is produced bi-monthly for referring providers of TRA- Medical Imaging Centers. It is designed to aid in the understanding of TRA and its services. If you have any questions, please contact the following:

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