



# Lung (V/Q) Scan

## What is it?

A lung (V/Q) scan is also known as a lung ventilation and perfusion scan. This test is used to detect blood clots in the lungs. These blood clots are called pulmonary embolisms.

## What do I need to do before the procedure?

Make sure you remember to bring any previous films or reports to the appointment. Wear warm comfortable clothing. You will also need to:

- **Medications** - take your medications as normal
- **Advise of pregnancy or breastfeeding** - let the service know if you are pregnant or breastfeeding

## What will happen?

There is two parts to the test. First you will be asked to breathe a small amount of a radioactive gas through a special mouth-piece. It usually takes about ten breaths to breathe in all the gas. They then take pictures of the gas in your lungs using a special camera. This takes about 15 minutes and you will need to lie still and breath normally.

Then you will be given a small injection of a radioactive tracer into a vein. Pictures of the blood supply in your lungs are taken using the camera. This takes another 15 minutes and you will be required to lie still and breathe normally.

## What can I expect after?

There are no after-effects from having a lung (V/Q) scan. The small doses of radiation in the gas and tracer is about the same as you would get from a chest X-ray.

Once it is finished, you can go home. You are able to drive immediately after the test. Your results will be sent to your GP or specialist.

## Where can I learn more?

- **Healthline** - lung (V/Q) scan: [healthline.com](https://www.healthline.com)

*Adapted from Liverpool Hospital Department of Nuclear Medicine and PET*

This information is to be viewed by someone who has received a diagnosis from their doctor. It is not designed to be used to diagnose a condition or as a substitute for ongoing medical care

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