

PROTECT YOURSELF DURING SCANS

Sometimes during **NUCLEAR MEDICINE** imaging, such as PET/SPECT scans, patients can be unknowingly exposed to high doses of radiation.

About 15%* of the time, technicians accidentally inject the radioactive drug into patients' arm tissue. This error is called an **EXTRAVASATION**.

Serious extravasations can lead to *inaccurate scans, wrong diagnosis or treatment, arm damage* weeks or months later, and an *increased risk of cancer*.

Many patients have no immediate signs, but some experience:

- ✓ Burning or tingling sensation*
- ✓ Swelling, pain, redness, or numbness*
- ✓ An unusual feeling at the injection site

One way to know for sure—ask your healthcare provider for an image of your injection site.

A black spot there can be evidence of an error.



REVIEW
YOUR
SCANS

SHARE
YOUR STORY
AND
IMAGES

Patients for Safer Nuclear Medicine -
advocating for safer nuclear scans

Learn more at safernuclearmedicine.org  twitter.com/SaferNuclear

*Information on the frequency and symptoms of extravasation can be found in a *white paper* by Versant Medical Physics and Radiation Safety.