



Pullman Regional Hospital Nuclear Medicine Department

What is a Cerebral Spinal Fluid Leak Scan?

A Cerebral Spinal Fluid Leak Scan is a procedure to find the site for a possible Cerebral Spinal Fluid leak. It is done on patients who have a runny nose (rhinorrhea) or discharge from the ear (otorrhea), following surgery or trauma.

Before your scan

Your ENT physician or the Radiologist will place small gauze pads (pledgets) in your ears, mouth and sinuses.

You may have a CT scan done to confirm the placement of these pledgets.

You will need to be NPO for 8 hours prior to this appointment.

During your scan

Once you are registered and checked in at the Same Day Surgery department, a technologist will come to greet you and bring you into the Radiology department. The technologist will explain the procedure and answer any questions you may have.

When you arrive to the Radiology department, you will be set up for the Lumbar puncture. The radiologist will perform the Lumbar procedure and inject a small amount of imaging tracer into your spinal canal. The tracer will not make you feel sick or cause you any side effects.

Once the Lumbar puncture is finished, you will be placed on a hospital bed and taken back to your Same Day Services suite. At 2 and 6 hours post your lumbar procedure, a technologist will bring you into the Nuclear Medicine department for your imaging and a blood draw.

After your scan

After the 6 hour images are complete, the pledgets will be removed and you can resume your regular activities with no restrictions. The technologist will not be able to give you any results; however, the results should be available to the doctor who ordered your test within one to two business days.

Thank you

We are honored that you have chosen Pullman Regional Hospital to serve your healthcare needs.