



Nuclear Medicine Fast Facts (SNM)

1. An estimated 16 million nuclear medicine imaging and therapeutic procedures are performed each year in the United States. Of these, 40-50% are cardiac exams and 35-40% are cancer related.
2. Nuclear Medicine procedures are cost effective.
3. There are nearly 100 different nuclear medicine imaging procedures available today.
4. Unlike other tests/procedures, etc., nuclear medicine provides information about the function of virtually every major organ system within the body.
5. Nuclear medicine procedures are among the safest diagnostic imaging tests available.
6. The amount of radiation in a nuclear medicine procedure is comparable to that received during a diagnostic x-ray.
7. Children commonly undergo nuclear medicine procedures to evaluate bone pain, injuries, infection, or kidney and bladder function.
8. Nuclear medicine procedures are painless and do not require anesthesia.
9. Common nuclear medicine applications include diagnosis and treatment of hyperthyroidism (Graves' disease), cardiac stress tests to analyze heart function, bone scans for orthopedic injuries, lung scans for blood clots, and liver and gall bladder procedures to diagnose abnormal function or blockages.
10. There are approximately 4,000 board certified nuclear medicine physicians and 15,700 certified nuclear medicine technologists worldwide.
11. Nuclear medicine is an integral part of patient care and contributes to the well being of patients worldwide.

