

# CARBON-14 UREA BREATH TEST (C-14-UBT)

## **Information for our Nuclear Medicine Patients:**

Inform your physician if you are pregnant or breast feeding.

## **What is Nuclear Medicine?**

Nuclear Medicine is a medical specialty which uses safe, painless and cost-effective techniques both to image the body and treat disease. Nuclear Medicine imaging is unique in that it documents organ function and structure in contrast to diagnostic radiology which is based on anatomy. Nuclear Medicine allows your physician to gather medical information which may otherwise be unavailable.

Nuclear Medicine uses very small amounts of radioactive materials, or radio-pharmaceuticals, to diagnose and treat disease. Radiopharmaceuticals are substances that are attracted to specific organs, bones or tissues. The radiopharmaceuticals used in Nuclear Medicine emit gamma rays which can be detected externally by special types of cameras called gamma cameras. These cameras work in conjunction with computers, and are used to create images which provide data and information about the area of the body being imaged.

## **Carbon-14 UREA Breath Test (C-14-UBT):**

You have been referred for a Carbon-14 Urea breath test to determine the presence or eradication of the h. pylori bacteria or bacterial infection, which can be the cause of ulcers.

This study involves the use of an extremely small amount of radioactive material mixed with water. The level of radioactivity used is extremely low and has no side effects. You will be asked to drink a liquid or swallow a capsule and then breathe into a special mouthpiece or balloon.

## **Patient Preparation:**

Antibiotics and bismuth stopped one month prior to exam. Antacids and anti-H2's stopped twelve hours prior to exam. All stomach medications should be stopped two weeks prior to exam. Fasting for at least four (4) hour prior to exam.

## **Procedure:**

You will be asked your weight, any medications you take and your medical history. When you have completed the preliminary work-up you will be asked to quickly swallow the capsule or a small amount of water containing the Carbon-14-Urea followed by another small amount of plain water. Your breath samples will then be collected. The entire exam should take no more than 30 minutes.

## **Appointment Information:**

**If you are unable to keep this appointment, please contact the Nuclear Medicine Department at 618-847-8221 or the Radiology Department at 618-847-8249, at least 24 hours in advance of your appointment.**

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Appointment Date: \_\_\_\_\_ & Time: \_\_\_\_\_

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