



Doctors Rely on Nuclear Medicine To Help Many Types of Patients

Nuclear medicine is an exciting field in healthcare that provides important information for diagnosing, evaluating, and managing disease. Virtually all hospitals, as well as many clinics and private doctors' offices, perform nuclear medicine tests and scans. About 13 million nuclear medicine procedures are performed on patients each year (35,000 a day) in the United States. Previous research, carried out from the 1940s through the 1990s—funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Biological and Environmental Research (BER)—made it possible for today's doctors to rely on nuclear medicine to help patients. These photographs represent several types of patients who benefit every day from clinical nuclear medicine procedures. Nuclear medicine truly helps patients "everywhere in healthcare"—and so does BER Medical Sciences through its 50-year legacy of nuclear medicine research.



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Cardiology

Patients with Heart Disease

Nuclear medicine provides several ways to evaluate heart disease. Heart scans can show whether certain regions of the heart muscle lack an adequate supply of blood, which can help cardiologists decide whether a patient needs angioplasty, bypass surgery, or changes in lifestyle. Images that show metabolic activity can help predict the success of these revascularization procedures. Other nuclear medicine tests can evaluate the strength of heart muscle contraction.



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Oncology

Patients with Cancer

Nuclear medicine scans can detect and stage many types of cancer. These scans can also show how well a patient responds to treatment, such as surgery, chemotherapy, or radiation therapy. In some cases, nuclear medicine can be used to treat selected cancers.