



Background

VQ Lung studies require the patient to inhale and exhale a radioactive gas produced by the Technegas™ Generator system.

In the current climate there are several issues of concern for nuclear medicine staff:

- There is inherent risk in the ventilation phase of the V/Q scan for the spread of COVID-19 to patients and staff (Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, 9/3/2020).
- It cannot be guaranteed that the Technegas Generator system is not contaminated should the ventilation component be performed on a Covid-19 infected patient.

Goal

The goal is to ensure safety of patients and staff for VQ scans

Process

1. For patients definitely requiring evaluation of pulmonary embolism CTPA can be performed after consultation with the medical imaging staff.
2. If CT contrast is contraindicated, a perfusion nuclear medicine study only can be performed in conjunction with a CXR.
3. A perfusion scan only would also be suitable for pregnant patients (in conjunction with a chest x-ray)
4. All referrals for Nuclear Medicine Ventilation/Perfusion (V/Q) Lung Studies will be referred to a consultant for approval and protocolling.

We will endeavour to provide a low dose CT Chest (performed on the Nuclear Medicine hybrid scanner) in addition to the perfusion scan after consultation with the approving Nuclear Medicine Specialist.

A ventilation study may be considered in a proven coronavirus negative patient.

Author: Melanie Tempest

Approver: Daniel Vandenberg

Date 07.04.2020