



## **Nuclear Medicine**

### **What is nuclear medicine?**

Nuclear medicine uses safe, painless imaging techniques to take images of the inside of the body and help diagnose diseases. Nuclear medicine provides doctors with information representing both the structure and function of organs in the body. It can identify abnormalities very early in the progress of a disease; long before many medical problems are apparent with other diagnostic tests.

### **What to expect**

Nuclear Medicine uses very small amounts of radioactive material ingested or injected through an IV. These compounds are attracted to specific organs, bones or tissues which absorb the radioactive material. Once an organ or tissue has absorbed the radioactive material, it produces emissions which are detected by a scanner.

Adverse reactions to the tracers are very rare and the amount of radiation in a typical nuclear imaging procedure is comparable to the amount received during a diagnostic x-ray.

Nuclear medicine exams can take anywhere from 30 minutes to 4-5 days. You will want to follow your doctor's instructions on how to prepare for the exam.

### **Equipment**

BRMC uses a state-of-the-art SPECT/CT camera which provides true functional and structural imaging.

BRMC also offers nuclear cardiology compliant with American Society of Nuclear Cardiologists using low dose cardiac imaging.

Hours are from 6 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. For any questions concerning your exam call 814/362-8202.