ABOUT NUCLEAR STRESS TESTING

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- A nuclear stress test is noninvasive, and uses exercise along with nuclear imaging
- Nuclear imaging includes SPECT scan or PET scan
- Nuclear stress tests measure artery blockage
- They reveal the diagnosis of patients who have suffered from a heart attack
- The tests show the efficiency of cardiac events executed on patients, such as coronary stenting or balloon angioplasty
- Exposes source of chest pains
- Exercise levels for patients

Nuclear stress tests give the doctor detailed information about the heart's structure and function. Blockages or narrowing of arteries due to coronary heart disease are exposed, along with how well the heart is pumping blood. Any damage to heart muscles is exposed.

These tests are very safe. In uncommon cases, patients may experience skin rashes, elevated blood pressure, trouble breathing or arrhythmias, which are abnormal heart rhythms.