



Royal Hospital Nuclear Medicine Department

Bone Scan

Patient Information Sheet

How Nuclear Medicine Works?

Nuclear Medicine exams can help to assess how well your organs are working. Hence, it is different from other areas of radiology, which create images of the body anatomy. During a nuclear medicine procedure, you will receive an injection of a radioactive material called a radiopharmaceutical. When the radiopharmaceutical reaches the right area, a special machine called a gamma camera will take pictures of the area of interest.

What is a Bone Scan?

A [bone scan](#) is a test that can find damage to the bones, find [cancer](#) that has spread to the bones, and watch problems such as infection and trauma to the bones. A bone scan can often find problem days to months earlier than a regular X-ray test.

What is involved in this test?

The test involves two parts. Some patients require only 2nd part of the test. This is decided by the nuclear medicine physician before the scan is started.

Part 1:

- A technologist will ask you to lie down on a scanner bed and a small amount of radiopharmaceutical will be injected into a vein in your arm.
- The scan will begin after the injection immediately and takes around 10 minutes to complete.
- Then you will be asked to wait for 2 hours before the 2nd part starts.

Part 2:

- 2 hours after the injection, you will be asked to lie down on the scanner bed and the imaging will start which takes about 30 min to complete.
- Once completed, the images will be shown to a Nuclear Medicine Physician, who may request extra images.

What happens after the test?

- You may resume your normal activities once the examination is completed.
- The report will be sent to your doctor. There are no known side effects to this test.
- The radiopharmaceutical passes out of your body through your urine over about 24 hours. So, you are advised to drink plenty of water for a day after the scan to help flush the radionuclide out of your system.

Preparation

- Remove all metals from the patient.
- No barium or iodine should be given within 48 HRS.
- Drink a lot of water post injection for better scan quality.
- Patient can lie down in supine position without motion at least 30 min.

For female patients

- If you are pregnant, please tell the technologist before you are injected with the radioactive tracer.
- Please consult your technologist if you are breastfeeding for further instructions.

Your **Bone Scan** has been scheduled for _____ at _____

If you have any questions or concerns about the test, or if you need to cancel or reschedule your appointment, please contact the **Nuclear Medicine Department** at **24627069**

Nuclear Medicine Department is located on the Ground floor in the Oncology Centre

Please check in with nuclear medicine reception 15 minutes before your appointment.

