



Royal Hospital Nuclear Medicine Department

Hepatobiliary 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 Hepatobiliary Scan?

A hepatobiliary scan is an imaging procedure used to diagnose problems of the liver, gallbladder and bile ducts. It is commonly used to evaluate the function and structure of the gallbladder, and helps to determine the cause of pain in the upper right side of the abdomen.

What is involved in this test?

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 one hour to complete.
- Once completed, the images will be shown to a Nuclear Medicine Physician, who may then request extra images or decide to start the second part of the test.

Part2:

- The patient will be asked to eat a fatty food (e.g. cheese sandwich).
- After 30 minutes, another set of pictures will be taken for 5 minutes each.

- The food taken by the patient will stimulate the gallbladder to contract and help to evaluate its function.
- Extra delayed images might be required as well.

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.

Preparation

- Do not eat or drink for 4 hours before the test.
- Do not take narcotics medications (morphine) for 6 to 12 hours before the test.

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 **Hepatobiliary 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.

