

BONE SCAN (BONE SCINTIGRAPHY TEST)



Appointment

Date:

Time:

This test is all about your bones

Why has your doctor recommended this test?

A bone scintigraphy test (also sometimes referred to as a bone scan, nuclear bone scan or bone SPECT/CT scan) is used to look at your bones for areas undergoing active repair or possible destruction of bony tissue. A bone scan can often detect abnormalities that cannot be seen on x-ray or MRI.

Bone scans are commonly used for:

- finding possible stress fractures, or shin splints.
- investigation of prosthetic pain, loosening or infection of major joint replacements.
- diagnosis of osteomyelitis vs cellulitis.
- diagnosis of metabolic bone diseases such as Paget's or arthritis.
- evaluation or staging of certain cancers.

You can drive to and from the test if you want to, but you are more than welcome to bring a friend or family member for support. Our offices are clearly signposted with ample onsite parking.

No preparation is required for this test.

However, please inform the technologist if you are pregnant, there is a possibility you might be pregnant, or if you are breastfeeding, prior to your scan.

What happens during the test?

The test is performed over two appointments in the same day and over all they can take 45-60 minutes.

At the first appointment:

- A small amount of mild radioactive liquid will be given through a vein in your arm. It feels similar to having a blood test, does not make you feel any different, and there are no side effects. This test takes about 15 minutes.

- Depending on what your doctor is looking for, a short image may be obtained immediately following the injection. This does not make you feel any different, and there are no side effects.
- There is a three hour gap between this appointment and your next. You are free to leave the clinic, and there are no restrictions on eating or drinking, or driving your car.

At the second appointment:

- You will be asked to lie on your back on the imaging bed, and the camera will be positioned over the area we are interested in.
- The imaging process begins and the images are collected.
- You will not need to undress or change into a gown.

Should I be worried about the Radiation dose?

There is no need to worry. The radiation dose from this procedure is relatively low and it's similar to what you would be exposed to in a standard x-ray.

However if you are worried or have any concerns, please share them with any of our staff, they're there to help.

After the scan

We'll ask you to wait in the waiting room while we make sure we have everything we need. This only takes a few moments and once done we'll let you know so you can go home or back to work.

We'll then have our specialist reviewers analyse your results and they will report back to your doctor within 1-2 days of doing the test.

If you have any questions at all, let us know.

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Creating answers. Not questions.