

HEPATOBIILIARY SCINTIGRAPHY (HIDA)



Appointment

Date:

Time:

This test is all about your gall bladder

Why has your doctor recommended this test?

A hepatobiliary scan is used to image the gallbladder and major ducts in the biliary tree in the liver. It can also be used to show bile drainage patterns in people who have had their gallbladders removed, and to test for other related issues.

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.

Before your test

You must not have anything to eat or drink, except small sips of water, 6 hours before your test. If you are diabetic, please contact the technologist prior to your study to discuss options for managing your blood sugar.

Opiate pain relief medications (eg. morphine) affect the outcome of this study – please contact the technologist at least two days prior to your study if you are taking this type of medication.

Your test may involve consuming food, so please inform the technologist of any allergies or intolerances you may have.

If this test is being performed on a child who may have difficulty remaining still during the imaging process, please contact the technologist prior to the scan day to discuss possible options.

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 hours.

- 1 You will be asked to lie down on the imaging bed, and the camera will be over your chest/abdomen. You don't need to take your clothes off.

- 2 A small amount of a 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.
- 3 The Imaging process then begins and images are collected over the next 90 minutes. You are welcome to sleep during this part of the process.
- 4 60 minutes into the test, you may be given a fatty meal to stimulate gallbladder contraction – this usually consists of a chocolate Mars bar and a glass of milk. Let the technologist know if you have any allergies or intolerances prior to the scan commencing.
- 5 Depending on your medical history and what your doctor is looking for, morphine may be administered as part of the test. You will be advised of this in advance, and also of any additional preparation needed for this type of study.
- 6 Parents of children having the test are able to remain in the room with their child during the imaging procedure.

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.