Biliary scan

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET NM02

Your appointment:

Date: .....

Time: .....

Location: .....

Please see our website for more clinic details.

Duration of examination

The scanning process can take between 1.5 and 2.5 hours.

Please bring with you:

- Your request form
- Medicare and any
- Healthcare cards

Payment on the day of the examination is requested.

For more information regarding Benson Radiology please visit:

bensonradiology.com.au

What is a biliary scan?

This scan is used to evaluate the function of your gallbladder.

Patient preparation

You are required to:

- fast for 6-8 hours prior to your appointment, although it is important you do not fast for more than 24 hours
- stop taking morphine or any opiate-based painkillers for 24 hours.

What will happen during the examination?

The examination involves a small injection into a vein in your arm. The injection is a radioactive tracer which is taken up by your liver. The tracer is then processed by the liver, before collecting in your gallbladder in the same way as bile.

Images of your gallbladder are taken for an hour immediately after the injection.

You will be positioned lying on your back on the scanning bed with the special gamma camera just above your abdomen.

If your gallbladder is not seen after one hour, you may be given a small injection of morphine. The morphine will help your bile ducts contract and thus allow the tracer to go into the gallbladder. If you have this injection there will be a 15-minute wait followed by a further three minutes of imaging.

If your gallbladder is seen after the first hour and the doctor needs to investigate how well it is contracting, then further imaging is required.

You will be given a glass of full cream milk. This will encourage your gallbladder to contract.

As your body needs time to process the milk, there will be a wait of one hour before a further three minutes of imaging is performed.

You may leave the department during this wait. After the procedure you are allowed to eat and resume daily activities as normal.

Are there any risks?

This examination has no associated side effects.

Pregnant, breast feeding patients and carers of infants

This examination is not suitable for pregnant women.

After the examination

The images will be reviewed and reported by our nuclear medicine specialist. These will then be sent to your referring clinician.

For details on reporting timeframes, please speak with our reception staff.

It is important that you follow up the results of your examination with your referring clinician.

It is important you understand why and how we will be assisting you. If you have any questions, please call one of our clinics or speak to our staff on the day of your visit.

Benson radiology

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