Nuclear medicine bone scan

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET NM03

Your appointment:

Date: .....

Time: .....

Location: .....

Please see our website for more clinic details.

Duration of examination

A bone scan is performed in two parts. The total duration varies between two and five 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 nuclear medicine bone scan?

Bone scanning is used to evaluate the blood flow and metabolic activity (bone building process) of the skeleton.

Your doctor may have referred you for a bone scan for one of many different reasons. Common reasons include: to evaluate the cause of pain, to detect small fractures not seen on x-rays or to assess if a cancer may have spread to the bones.

Patient preparation

There is no specific preparation required. You may take your medications as normal.

The procedure is performed in two parts. The initial stage will take approximately 20 minutes, after which time you may temporarily leave the department.

You will be asked to return for the second part of your examination approximately two to four hours later.

If having other examinations on the same day please notify our staff as the order of your examinations must be carefully planned.

What will happen during the examination?

The bone scan involves a small injection into a vein, usually in your arm. The injection is a radioactive tracer, which is absorbed by your bones. It contains a small amount of radiation only. There are no side effects from this tracer.

Images may need to be taken immediately after the injection. These pictures are used to assess the blood flow to a part of your body that may be sore. The images are taken by a special gamma camera and take about 15 minutes.

There is then a period before you are required for the second part of your examination. You will be given an appointment time to return to the department on the day. It is usually between two and four hours time. During your break you are allowed to leave the department, eat and drink. There are no restrictions as to what you do. You are also welcome to stay in the department if you desire.

You will be advised to maintain your fluid intake and empty your bladder frequently before you come back for your scan. This helps to minimize your radiation dose. The second scan usually takes about 30 minutes.

Are there any risks?

This procedure 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.

Benson radiology

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