Red cell liver scan

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET NM13

Your appointment:

Date: .....

Time: .....

Location: .....

Please see our website for more clinic details.

Duration of examination

The scan is performed in two parts. The total duration you will be required is five hours. You will have three hours of free time during this period.

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 red cell liver scan?

A red cell liver scan is used to assess and determine the nature of lesions found in the liver. This procedure is very successful in identifying haemangiomas, which are cysts containing blood.

Patient preparation

There is no specific preparation for this examination. You may continue your current medications as normal.

What will happen during the examination?

The scan is performed in two parts. The first part of the examination requires a sample of your blood to be 'labelled' with a radioactive tracer.

A small cannula is inserted into a vein in your arm. A sample of your blood is collected into a syringe and then mixed with the radioactive tracer. This 'labelled' sample is then reinjected into your arm via the same cannula. The tracer allows your blood to be visualised as it passes through your liver.

You will be positioned on a scanning bed and a special gamma camera will pass around your abdomen while taking a series of pictures from various angles. This imaging takes about 20 minutes to perform.

This completes the first part of the procedure. You will be asked to return about three hours later for the images to be repeated. During these three hours you are allowed to leave the department, eat and drink, without restriction.

The second part of the examination does not involve any further injections. Images are taken with the same gamma camera to assess how your blood has moved through your liver during the three-hour break. This second stage will take approximately 45 minutes and concludes your examination.

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.

Breastfeeding mothers may undergo the procedure, but will need to cease breast feeding for 2 hours after the scan. Breast milk should be expressed and discarded during this period. Breast feeding may resume after the 2 hours.

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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