

Captopril renal scan

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET



Your appointment:

Date:

Time:

Location:

Please see our website for more branch details.

Duration of examination

The examination process will take approximately one and a half hours and is usually arranged as an afternoon appointment.

Please bring with you:

- > Your request form
- > All previous relevant imaging
- > Medicare and any Healthcare cards

Payment on the day of the examination is requested.

For more information on this procedure please call one of our branches.

For more information regarding Benson Radiology please visit:

bensonradiology.com.au

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What is a captopril renal scan?

This scan is performed to assess the blood flow and function of your kidneys as a potential cause for your hypertension (high blood pressure).

Patient preparation

As some medications can affect the result of your scan, please have a list of all your current medications available when booking your appointment.

You will need to be well hydrated for your examination. Drink one litre of water one hour prior to your scan. You may empty your bladder as needed as it is not a requirement to have a full bladder.

What will happen during the examination?

On arrival, a nuclear medicine technologist will take your blood pressure. You will then be given a small tablet of Captopril. Captopril is a blood pressure medication that may assist in detecting any narrowing of the arteries supplying blood to your kidneys.

The Captopril will take an hour to take effect. During this hour you will be required to rest quietly. Your blood pressure will be regularly monitored. After the hour's rest you will be positioned on the scanning bed, where you will receive a small injection into a vein, usually in your arm. This injection contains a small amount of radioactive tracer, which is filtered out by the kidneys. The injection has no side effects. Images are taken immediately after the injection for 30 minutes. You will be required to remain still during this imaging phase.

Depending on the results of this examination, the test may need to be repeated without the Captopril tablet. This does not mean that the first injection did not work, it simply means more information may be required to make an accurate diagnosis.

For this examination you may need to stop your blood pressure medication for three days.

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.

Breastfeeding mothers may undergo the procedure, but will need to cease breast feeding for 12 hours after the scan. Breast milk should be expressed and discarded during this period. Breast feeding may resume after the 12 hours.

For some examinations it may be required to avoid prolonged close contact with infants and young children. If you have any queries regarding this please speak with our technical staff on the day of your appointment.

After the examination

The nuclear medicine specialist will review and report on your images. This can take up to 90 minutes. For your convenience we can generally deliver the images and report to your doctor by the next working day.

Alternatively your doctor may request that you return later to collect the imaging and report.