

Biliary Scan

PATIENT INFORMATION - What You Need to Know

DESCRIPTION OF EXAM

A biliary scan is a Nuclear Medicine imaging procedure that allows a Radiologist to assess the function of the liver, gallbladder and bile ducts.

PREPARING FOR YOUR EXAM - What to do before your exam:

Patients must be NPO (no food or drink) for 4 hours, and no pain meds for 6 hours prior to exam. Other medications are okay with a sip of water only. Patients should not be pregnant. If patient is breastfeeding please notify technologist at the time of exam. Wear comfortable clothing and avoid wearing jewelry and metallic objects. Arrive 30 minutes before your scheduled exam time to allow for registration.

DURING THE EXAM

An intravenous line will be placed in the patient's arm. A radioactive injection will be given at the start of the test while the patient lies flat on their back underneath the camera. Patient will lie underneath a rectangular camera for the entire length of the test. A medication called CCK will be given at the appropriate time (approximately an hour into the test) and will make the Gallbladder contract. If CCK is unavailable the patient will be asked to drink Boost through a straw while under the camera at the appropriate time. Imaging will continue for an hour after the CCK or boost has been given. The patient must be able to lie still for the entire exam that can last up to 2.5 hours.

AFTER YOUR EXAM

Drink plenty of fluids after your exam to help wash out the radioactive tracer from the body more quickly. There are no side effects from the radioactive tracer. The amount of radioactivity you receive is a very small amount and is not harmful to you or anyone else. If breastfeeding, it is recommended to pump milk and discard for 4 hours after exam.