

Renal Scan

PATIENT INFORMATION - What You Need to Know

DESCRIPTION OF EXAM

A Renal Scan is a Nuclear Medicine imaging procedure that allows a radiologist to assess the anatomy and function of the kidneys.

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

Patient can eat and drink before exam. Patient can take any medication that they need. Patient should not be pregnant. If patient is breast feeding 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

The patient's abdomen is positioned underneath the camera throughout the study. Patient will remove all clothing below the belt, and are asked to empty their bladder. A clean diaper will need to be placed on infants before the exam begins. A technologist will place an IV into the patient. The patient's physician may want a urinary catheter to be placed by a nurse if the scan includes Lasix. Once completed, the patient will lie flat under the camera and a radioactive isotope will be injected into the IV. This is when the test will begin. The test will take 30 minutes. It is very important that the patient lie flat and still for the entire exam.

If this is a Renal with Lasix the patient will receive a saline infusion for hydration for the first 40 min of the exam. After about 30 minutes of imaging the patient will receive a Lasix injection through the IV to flush out the kidneys. Imaging will continue for another 30 minutes after the Lasix injection. After an hour of imaging the patient will be asked to urinate, or the Foley bag will be emptied. The patient will be asked to stand upright for 10 minutes before a 1 min delayed image is taken. Total imaging time is 1hr and 10mins. Parents can bring in a DVD or VHS to watch during procedure for children.

AFTER YOUR EXAM

Drink plenty of fluids after your exam to help wash out the radioactive tracer from body more quickly. There are no side effects from the radioactive tracer, and the amount of radioactivity you received is a very small amount that is not harmful to you or anyone else. If breastfeeding, it is recommended to pump milk and discard for 12 hours after exam.