

Radionuclide Bone Scan

- A bone scan is a reliable and painless test that identifies changes or problem areas in your bones. The scan takes images of all the bones in your body using a small amount of radioactive material and special scanning equipment.
- The bone scan is often done as part of a check-up to be sure that the bones are free of cancer and to determine the effects of cancer treatment. The total amount of radiation that you are exposed to during the bone scan is very low.
- We inject a small amount of radioactive material into a vein in your arm. It takes 2-3 hours for bone cells to collect the radioactivity from the circulating blood.
- Radiation rays from the medication make an image on photographic film. A nuclear medicine doctor studies the pictures and notes any changes or problem areas in your bones and reports them to your doctor.

The Day of Your Bone Scan

- A nuclear medicine technologist will inject the medication into a vein, usually in your arm. You may feel a brief sting in your arm from the injection.
- You will be asked to return to the Nuclear Medicine Clinic in 2 to 3 hours. To ensure accurate results, please return on time.
- If for some unavoidable reason you cannot keep your appointment, please notify the Nuclear Medicine Clinic at **716-845-3231**.
- When you return, dress in clothing that has no metal accessories.
- Empty your bladder before your scan begins.
- You will be helped onto the scanning machine, which consists of a firm bed with a camera above it. The technologist will help position you and adjust the camera.
- As you lie on your back, the scanner will be positioned over you and will move over the entire length of your body. This will be done from above (anterior view) and from below (posterior view). Additional views may be required for accurate interpretation.
- During the bone scan, try to relax, breathe normally, and lie very still.
- The bone scan will take about 1 hour. Too much movement will cause a poor quality picture that is difficult to interpret.

After Your Bone Scan

- There are no side effects; you can return to normal activities right away.
- The radioactive material presents no immediate danger to you or those near you. Half of the radioactivity is gone within 6 hours. After 48 hours the radioactivity is completely gone. Drink lots of fluids to help wash the tracer out of your body.