It is safe?

Like all other Nuclear Medicine procedures, the amount of radiation used is extremely small, making this test very safe.

Preparation

There is no preparation for this test. Please inform our staff if you have any serious illness. Please advise staff if you are or could be pregnant or breast-feeding. Please bring a list of all medications and supplements you take.

When you come for the test

When you arrive in the Nuclear Medicine Department, you will be asked about your medical history and medications. You will then be given an injection of a radioactive tracer by a qualified Nuclear Medicine technologist; there are no side effects from the injection.

Depending on your referral and medical history, we may require to take some images at this stage. The imaging staff will then ask you to return about 2-3 hours later. This time is needed for the tracer to localise into your bones.

During this time, you may resume your normal activities and diet.

When you return, you will be asked to empty your bladder. This is done so that the pelvic and hip bones will show up clearly.

Images of your whole body or only specific areas of concern are taken.

A specialist will review your pictures. In some cases extra images will be taken to obtain more detailed information. Once the required images are done, the test is complete.

The radioactive tracer you were given is not harmful and it quickly disappears out of your body over the next couple of days through urine and the natural process of radioactivity decay.

A Bone Scan is an important diagnostic procedure used to diagnose early bone disease, infection, malignant disease, sports injuries or fractures. This test is very sensitive and can detect these conditions early.

To ensure that we are providing you with the best service, at any stage of the examination if you have any questions or concerns, please ask our staff.

We also welcome any feedback.