

A kidney (renal) nuclear medicine scan is used to diagnose certain kidney diseases. It is an excellent diagnostic tool because it shows not only the anatomy of the kidneys, but the function of them as well. This additional “functional information” allows radionuclide imaging to diagnose certain diseases and various medical conditions much sooner than other imaging examinations.

Before the test

Please advise staff when booking if you are pregnant or breast feeding.

Prior to your appointment, you may continue your normal activities and diet but it is extremely important that you are well hydrated, so you need to drink at least 2-3 cups of water, while emptying your bladder as often as you like.

“The radioactive tracer you were given is not harmful and it quickly disappears out of your body...”

During the test

When you arrive in the Nuclear Medicine Department, you will be asked questions about your medical history.

You will be requested to empty your bladder, then you will be positioned on a scanning table, and given an injection (into the vein) of a radioactive tracer.

Images will be taken straight after for approximately 30 minutes where you will need to lie very still.

The imaging staff may then ask you to empty your bladder one more time before taking further images. Once the required images are done, the test is complete.

After the test

You may resume your normal activities and diet after the test.

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.

Minor following variations exist with regard to the above protocol, depending on your clinical condition:

- » DMSA Study – looking for renal scarring. Following the usual Renal scan procedure above, you will be asked to return 3-4 hours post injection for more images.
- » Captopril Study – for high blood pressure patients. Prior to the test you will be asked to cease some medications that might interfere with the test. Upon arrival to the Nuclear Medicine Department you will be given a blood pressure pill. After waiting one hour the renal scan will be performed.
- » Lasix Washout – for patients with blockage. Following Renal Scan Lasix is given through the drip to assist emptying of the kidneys. Images are obtained for 20 mins.

It is safe?

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

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.



Appointment

Please phone or SMS our friendly booking service on **1300 788 508** or request an appointment online www.canberraimaging.com.au

What to bring

Please bring the following items with you to your appointment:
→ Your referral
→ Any relevant films
→ Medicare card
→ Pension / Health Care card

Your results

Your doctor will receive fast and convenient electronic access to your reports and images. Canberra Imaging Group strongly advise that you return to your referring doctor in order for your doctor to discuss your results with you.