



radiology | SA

# NUCLEAR MEDICINE BILIARY SCANS

**Your appointment  
Date:**

**Time:**

Patient Preparation:

- **8 hours fasting**  
(No eating, no drinking, no smoking).
- **You may not be fit to drive afterwards, please ensure that someone else drives you home.**

Time for Examination:  
**1.5 – 3 hours**

Please Bring:

**All previous Imaging including Nuclear Medicine Scans, X-rays, US, CT and MRI studies.**

Location:

**Calvary Hospital  
X-Ray Department  
89 Strangways Tc  
North Adelaide SA 5006**

Parking:

**Calvary:**

Free on-street parking is available (1 hour, 2 hour and all day). Please take note of parking time limits as this area is patrolled by council.

Radiology SA Nuclear Specialists:

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Your doctor has recommended that you have a Nuclear Medicine Biliary Scan. While there are variations to a standard biliary scan, below are some general guidelines that will apply to most patients.

All patients undertaking a Nuclear Medicine biliary scan are required to fast for 8 hours prior to their study. Fasting means no eating, no drinking and no smoking for 8 hours. You may use a sip of water to swallow any medications you may be taking.

A biliary scan involves a small injection into a vein (usually in your arm). This injection contains a small amount of radioactivity that is processed by your liver and allows our camera to image your gall bladder. There are no side-effects to the injection and the injection will not interfere with any medications you may be taking.

Following injection, a camera above you will take continuous images over your abdomen area. These pictures take exactly one hour.

If your gall-bladder has not appeared in our scan by one hour, you may be given an injection of a small amount of morphine to encourage your bile ducts to contract. This is only needed in a small percentage of patients. If this is required, you will not be fit to drive yourself home. Please ensure that someone else drives you home after the scan.

If your gall-bladder is seen on our scan by one hour and your doctor has requested information about how your gallbladder contracts, you will require further imaging. You will be asked to take a short break (usually around 15 minutes) and then return to the bed for another 90 minutes of imaging. During this scan you will be connected to a drip and an amount of medication (CCK) will be infused to encourage your gall-bladder to contract. A very small amount of patients will report minor abdominal discomfort during the drip infusion; most patients experience no symptoms what-so-ever. A biliary scan is followed by CCK infusion in most patients.

This study is unsuitable for pregnant women. Breast-feeding mothers can have a Nuclear Medicine Biliary Scan but avoiding feeding from the breast and prolonged close contact with your baby is suggested for 12 to 24 hours after the injection. Feeding your baby with expressed breast milk or formula is recommended during this time. Patients who will be the primary care-giver to children under five on the day of the test, are encouraged to maintain a certain distance (around 1 metre) from the children where possible. This is not essential but is recommended in the 12 hours following injection, to avoid very young children being exposed to small amounts of radioactivity unnecessarily.

**For more information please contact:**

**08 8402 0270**