Nuclear Medicine Biliary Scan (HIDA Scan)

A Biliary Scan is performed to assess the functioning of your gallbladder. The scan will involve a small injection of a radioactive tracer into a vein in your arm. There are no side effects. Following the injection you will be positioned underneath the scanner and continuous images will commence for one hour. Most commonly after one hour, if your gallbladder is seen on our scan you will be asked to take a short break for 10 minutes. When you return you will be asked to drink two small containers of a cold, sweet milky drink which encourages your gallbladder to empty. You will then lie down underneath the scanner for another hour.

If your gallbladder has not appeared on our scan after the hour, you may be given an injection of Morphine to encourage your bile ducts to contract.

This study is unsuitable for pregnant women. Breast-feeding mothers can have a Nuclear Medicine Biliary Scan with no interruption to breast feeding required.

BOOKING YOUR APPOINTMENT

Please call our friendly staff on 8402 0200. You may request a site convenient to you; otherwise the booking staff can suggest your nearest location.

WHAT TO BRING

Radiology referral
Medicare card
Healthcare / Concession card (if applicable)
Previous relevant imaging
You will need to bring a list of all medications you are taking

PREPARATION FOR YOUR STUDY

All patients undertaking a Nuclear Medicine Biliary Scan are required to fast for 6 hours prior to their study. Fasting means no eating, no drinking and no smoking for 6 hours. You may have a small sip of water to swallow any medications you may be taking.

TIME REQUIRED

This scan commonly takes around 2.5 hours to complete.