Patient Information Handout

Nuclear Medicine Renal Scan

A Renal Scan is performed to assess the functioning of your kidneys. A cannula (plastic tubing) will be placed into a vein in your arm. You will then be positioned underneath the scanner and given an injection of a radioactive “tracer” through the cannula. There are no side effects from the tracer. A series of images will be taken immediately after the tracer injection for 30 minutes.

Most commonly after these images, you will be given an injection of a diuretic called Lasix. This is followed by another 15-minute series of images. Lasix will cause your kidneys to produce more urine, so you will be encouraged to drink extra water to remain hydrated for the rest of the day.

Depending on your reason for having a Renal Scan, you may be required to have a tablet called Captopril 1 hour prior to the tracer injection. This tablet will lower your blood pressure. Your blood pressure will be monitored for 1 hour, and then the tracer injected and images taken for 30 minutes to see the effect of the tablet on your kidney function.

This study is unsuitable for pregnant women. Breast-feeding mothers can have a Nuclear Medicine Renal 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

You must be well hydrated prior to having a Nuclear Medicine Renal Scan. Please drink 1 litre of water in the hour prior to your appointment time. You may go to the toilet as normal during this time.

TIME REQUIRED

This scan takes 1-2 hours to complete.