

# Biliary (HIDA) scans

## What is nuclear medicine?

Nuclear medicine is an imaging modality which uses radioactive tracers to image physiological processes in the body. This allows for functional assessment and imaging of a wide range of systems and organs.

## What is a biliary (HIDA) scan?

A biliary scan is a diagnostic test which uses a radioactive tracer to assess the function of the gallbladder.

## What preparation is required?

You must eat a fat rich meal (e.g. bacon and eggs, butter, full cream milk, yogurt, avocado) six hours prior to your appointment and then fast (nothing to eat or drink) until your appointment time. **It is important you do not fast for longer than six hours.** If required you may have a small amount of water to take medications.

If you are diabetic inform the staff when you make your appointment. If you take insulin, bring it with you. Please bring a list of your medications with you when you come for the test.

If you are lactose intolerant please inform the staff prior to your appointment.

Opioid-based medications **must** be ceased for 24 hours prior to your appointment.

## What is involved?

You will be given an injection of a radioactive tracer into a vein in your arm and have images taken over your abdomen for 30 minutes.

You will be asked to wait a further 30 minutes to allow the gallbladder to completely fill, then another two minute image will be taken. You may then be asked to drink 600mLs full cream milk, causing the gallbladder to contract. Images will then be taken 30 minutes after finishing the milk and potentially again after another 30 minutes, depending on gallbladder response.

## Are there any side effects?

You will not feel any different following the injection. Sometimes patients report mild abdominal discomfort following the milk. Please advise the technologist if this occurs. Once the test is completed you will be able to continue with normal daily activities.

## How long will this take?

A biliary scan takes about 1½ hours, but occasionally may take longer.

## How do I get my results?

Digital images are immediately available to your doctor and your records will be kept permanently. This occurs through a system called PACS. **A report is available within 24 hours.**

If your referring doctor wants to see you on the day of your examination, please advise the reception staff when you arrive for your appointment, so the appropriate information can be made available to your doctor.

## How much will this cost?

Please ask reception staff of the cost involved at the time of booking your appointment.

## Important

**It is important to let us know when you make your booking if you are or think you may be pregnant or are breastfeeding.**

It is important to bring with you your referral, previous x-rays and any other tests (only if previous ones were **not** done at Cabrini or I-MED).

## Questions

For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Cabrini Medical Imaging using the number below.