

Bone scan

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 bone scan?

A bone scan is a test that is used to detect abnormalities in bones. It is not an x-ray. A bone scan involves an injection of a radioactive tracer that is absorbed by bones. This gives information on the blood flow to bones to allow diagnosis of bone disease or injury.

What preparation is required?

No preparation is required. You should continue your medication as instructed by your doctor and eat and drink normally prior to the test. You can continue to eat normally and drink plenty of fluid between the two parts of the bone scan.

What is involved?

This test has two parts:

- 1) You will receive an IV injection of a radioactive tracer. You may have some images taken at this time.

This part of the test is performed in the morning and will take approximately 30 minutes. You will then be allowed to leave the nuclear medicine department for 3-4 hours. The staff will advise you when to return.
- 2) When you return to the nuclear medicine department images will be taken of your bones using a gamma camera. You will not have any more injections. This part of the test takes at least one hour.

Are there any side effects?

No. However, it is advised to limit time spent in close contact (less than one metre) with anyone pregnant or children under five years for 24 hours after this test.

How long will this take?

The first part of the test will take up to 30 minutes. The second part of the test usually takes about 1 hour but may, under some circumstances, 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.