

Medical Imaging patient information

Nuclear Medicine

Renal Scan with Captopril

What is a Renal Scan with Captopril?

This test is used to determine the cause of high blood pressure. Sometimes high blood pressure is caused by narrowing of the arteries supplying the kidneys.

What preparation is required?

There are some blood pressure medications that are usually stopped for 4 days before this test. If you are taking any of the medications on the list (linked to this information) please contact your doctor and ask if you should stop them prior to the study. You should always check with your doctor before stopping any medication. If you are on any of the drugs in the list labelled “ACE Inhibitors” and your doctor does not want you to stop them, do not take your morning dose, but bring it with you. Please bring a list of your medications when you come for the test. [Alphabetical Listing of Drugs that need to be ceased](#)

What is involved?

One hour before your appointment at the Nuclear Medicine Department you must drink 3 glasses of water. You may empty your bladder if you need to.

The test is done in three parts:

Part 1: You will receive an injection of radioactive tracer and images will be taken for 30 minutes.

Part 2: You will then be given a drug called an “ACE Inhibitor” (usually Captopril). This is a drug used for high blood pressure. A nurse will monitor your blood pressure for one hour.

Part 3: After the Captopril you will be given another injection of the radioactive tracer and further images taken for another 30 minutes for comparison.

Are there any side effects?

Captopril may decrease your blood pressure. Occasionally people get dizzy or faint following Captopril but this is uncommon. Generally you will not feel any different following the injections. Once the test is completed you will be able to continue with your usual daily activities. The dose of radiation is very small.

How long will this take?

This test will take 2.5 hours. The Nuclear Medicine staff will be able to give you an idea of how long the test will take when you make your booking.

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. **If a priority report is requested it will be issued within two hours and faxed or emailed to your doctor, however this can sometimes take up to 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 for you to take to your doctor.

Please note:

If you are or think you may be pregnant or if you are breast-feeding, please tell the Nuclear Medicine staff when you make your booking for the test. It is important to bring with you your referral, previous x-rays or Nuclear Medicine tests (only if previous ones were **not** done at Cabrini or MIA).

For an appointment or if you have any questions about the test please call **9508 1429**