

Renal 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 renal scan?

A renal scan is a test that is used to evaluate how well your kidneys are functioning.

What preparation is required?

You need to drink three glasses of water one hour leading up to your appointment. Your doctor will inform you if you need to stop any medication. Please bring a list of your medications when you come for the test.

What is involved?

When you arrive at the nuclear medicine department you will be asked to empty your bladder. You will be given an intravenous (IV) injection of a small amount of a radioactive tracer that is taken up by the kidneys and is excreted in the urine. Images will be taken. These will take at least 20 minutes and sometimes as long as one hour. You might receive a second injection of a drug called Lasix that increases the rate of production of urine.

Are there any side effects?

You will not feel any different following the injection of tracer. If you receive Lasix, it will cause your bladder to fill more quickly than normal. If you are not able to hold on let the technologist know to stop images so you can use the toilet. You will need to keep well-hydrated following administration of Lasix. Once the study is over you will be able to continue performing your usual daily activities. The amount of radioactivity is very small.

How long will this take?

The renal scan will take between 45 minutes and one hour.

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 for you to take 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.