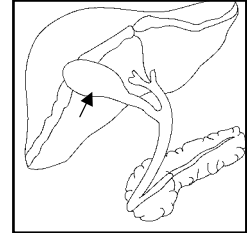


HIDA SCAN

Patient Education

What is the purpose of this test?

A HIDA scan is used to evaluate if you have gallbladder disease and/or to determine if your bile ducts are open. If your gallbladder has been removed, the physician may refer you for this test to evaluate the bile ducts.



How should I prepare for this test?

It is important that you do not eat or drink anything for six hours before the test. Please inform us if you have had barium x-ray studies within two (2) days of this test because this could affect the results.

How is the test done?

A Nuclear Medicine technologist will start an IV (a needle in your vein in which fluids are given) and then inject a radioisotope-tagged medication into the IV that will follow the same path that your body's natural bilirubin would follow (bilirubin is a component of bile which is secreted by the liver and stored in the gallbladder). You will lie on a padded imaging table. A specialized camera that is sensitive to the radioisotope will be fitted snugly against your abdomen and multiple pictures will be taken. You must remain still for a minute or two each time pictures are taken, but you will be able to relax between pictures.

How long does the test take?

The study can take at least 90 minutes to two hours. The time is highly variable because the gallbladder and the ducts may not show up immediately. Sometimes additional medication may be needed to help obtain the necessary images. If you are severely jaundiced (yellowing of the skin), delayed images up to 24 hours later may be necessary. It is also important to evaluate how well the gallbladder contracts under normal stimulation. This is performed after the gallbladder and small bowel are visualized. A small amount of a hormone (cholecystekinen) is injected into the IV line to make the gallbladder contract. Pictures will be taken continuously for 30 minutes. As the gallbladder contracts, you may experience some nausea and abdominal pain which are normal side effects and may last 10-15 minutes.

What about radiation?

Only a small amount of radiation is used in this procedure. The dose for each patient is carefully selected to give the least possible exposure while still allowing for an accurate examination. The radiologist and the technician are trained in radiation safety procedures. **CAUTION:** This test should not be done during pregnancy.

After the test...

Your HIDA scan will be analyzed by a radiologist who specializes in interpreting this type of test. He will report his findings to your doctor, who will then discuss with you the results of this study and any treatment you may require. Unless your doctor gives you special instructions, you may resume your previous diet, medication, and activities.

CONTACT YOUR PHYSICIAN FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS