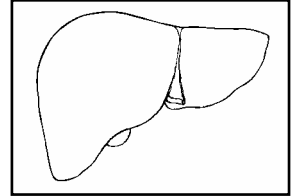


LIVER SCAN

Patient Education

What is the purpose of this test?

A liver scan is used to evaluate the structure and function of your liver and spleen. This helps your doctor make treatment recommendations.



How should I prepare for this test?

No special preparation is usually needed. However, if you have had recent barium x-ray tests such as upper GI, barium swallow or barium enema, you will need to inform the technologist before beginning the procedure.

How is the test done?

Before imaging, you will be asked to remove any metallic objects that may interfere with the scan. A breast prosthesis might also interfere, so removal will be necessary. A nuclear medicine technologist will inject a radioactive tracer into a vein in your arm. After 15-20 minutes, the technologist will assist you onto a table. Multiple pictures will then be taken with a special camera that presses snugly against your body.

How long does the test take?

You should be in the Nuclear Medicine department approximately 45 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 exam.

The radiologist and technologists are trained in radiation safety. **CAUTION:** This test should not be done during pregnancy.

After the test...

Your liver scan will be analyzed by a radiologist who specializes in interpreting this kind of test. He will report the findings to your doctor, who will then discuss the results with you and explain any treatment you may require. The radioactive drug you received will remain in your system for two days.

CONTACT YOUR PHYSICIAN FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS