

SKELETAL SCINTIGRAPHY (BONE SCAN)

Purpose of the study

This study investigates possible skeletal lesions, which may include fractures, cancer metastases and infections.

Preparing for the study

- You may eat and drink normally before the study.
- You may take your medications normally.
- Dentures and prosthetic joints will not interfere with a nuclear medicine study.
- The study is not done in pregnant women.

What to expect at the study

You will receive a small amount of radioactive tracer through a vein in your forearm. You will not sense the tracer.

After the tracer is administered, you will need to wait three hours for it to make its way into your bones. If you wish, you may leave the Nuclear Medicine Unit during the break. You will be informed right after the tracer injection when do you need to come back for the scanning, usually after 2,5 -3 hours from injection.

Tracer excreted into your bladder may make the scan more difficult to interpret, so try not to drink much fluid for about an hour before the scanning time. You may empty your bladder as needed during the break between tracer administration and scanning.

Before the scan, remove any loose metal objects on your body, such as your belt, keys or coins from your pockets. Jeans must be also undress, because of metallic zipper and other small parts. External silicone breast prostheses should also remove for the scan.

The scanning usually takes half an hour. You will need to lie on your back and stay still during the scan.

Duration of the study

The total time needed for the study, including the break time, is 3 to 4 hours.

Study results

The study results will be provided by a doctor at the ward or clinic that referred you.

After the study

You will emit a small amount of radioactivity into your immediate environment after receiving the tracer. After the scan, you should drink plenty of fluids and empty your bladder more often than usual so that the radioactivity will leave your body through your urine.

For the next 24 hours after receiving the radioactive injection, avoid close contact with pregnant women. Also avoid holding children or being next to them for a total of more than half an hour. Anyone will be completely safe at a distance of two metres. The radiation will dissipate spontaneously by the following day.

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