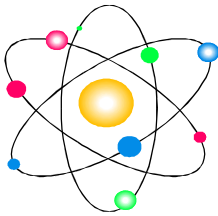


Biliary Scan



UHN

Information for Patients



How Nuclear Medicine Works

Nuclear medicine exams assess how your organs work. This is different from other areas of radiology, which create images based on your anatomy.

During a Nuclear Medicine procedure, you will swallow, inhale, or have an injection of a radioactive material called a **radiopharmaceutical**. When the radiopharmaceutical reaches the right area, a technologist will take pictures of you with a special machine called a gamma camera.

What is a biliary scan?

A biliary scan tests how your gallbladder is working and what it looks like. It also helps find the cause of pain in the upper right side of the abdomen (liver area).

What is the test like?

Part 1:

- a) First, a technologist will lie you down on a scan bed and inject a small amount of radioactive tracer into a vein in your arm or hand.
- b) The scan will start right away after the injection. This takes 1 hour.
- c) When this is done, the images will be shown to a Nuclear Medicine Specialist who may decide to start the second part of the test.

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Author: JDMI Nuclear Medicine

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University Health Network
Toronto General Hospital Toronto Western Hospital Princess Margaret Hospital

Part 2:

The Specialist may ask for part two of this test by ordering the injection of:

- a) **Cholecystokinin (ko-lee-sis-to-kin-in)** to make the gallbladder contract. Images are taken right away for 30 minutes. Cholecystokinin can cause nausea or stomach pain. Please tell the technologist if you are having these symptoms.

- b) Morphine may be injected which helps to move the radionuclide into the gallbladder. This takes 30 minutes.

We may need delayed images if you do not need medication.

What happens after the test?

There are no known side effects from the test. You may go back to your normal activities once the examination is over. The report will be sent to your doctor.

Preparation

- Do not eat or drink 4 hours before the test
- Stop taking narcotics (morphine) for 6-12 hours.
- If you do not have a blue card from the University Health Network, please come 30 minutes before your appointment time and go to Patient Registration, located on the ground floor near the Elizabeth Street entrance or at the desk of the main University Avenue entrance.

For female patients

If there is any chance that you are pregnant, tell the technologist before you are injected with the radioactive tracer. You will need to stop breastfeeding 24hrs for this test, so tell the technologist if you are nursing a baby.

Your biliary test has been scheduled on _____ at _____.

If you have any questions or concerns about the test, or if you need to cancel or reschedule your appointment, please contact the Toronto General Hospital Nuclear Medicine department at 416-340-3311.

At Toronto General Hospital, the Nuclear Medicine department is located on the first floor of the hospital, ES1-408, near the east elevators.

Check in at the Medical Imaging reception area (University Avenue entrance, across from the pharmacy) 15 minutes before your appointment.