

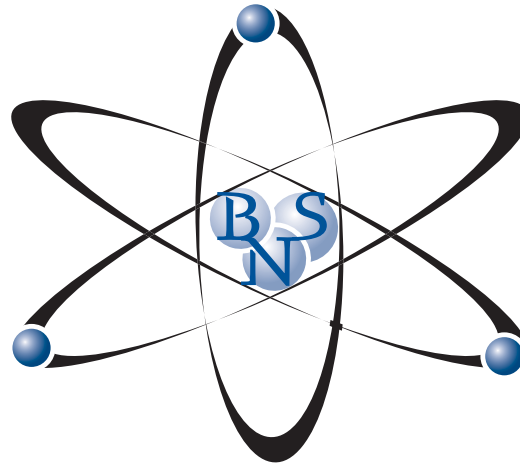
Exam will take place at:

Location: _____

Dept. _____

Phone: _____

If you require further information about your test, or, wish to change your appointment, please call the phone number listed above.



This pamphlet is not a substitute for an informed discussion between you and your physician. Consult your physician if you want more information on the procedures and medication described in this pamphlet.

BONE SCAN

A PATIENT'S GUIDE



Appointment Date:

Appointment Time:

What is the purpose of the Bone Scan?

The most common reasons for performing a bone scan is to detect areas of abnormal bone growth due to fractures, tumours, infection or other bone diseases. The radiopharmaceutical most commonly used is ^{99m}Tc-Medronate (MDP). MDP is injected into a vein, usually in the arm, where it is transported by the bloodstream to the bones.

What happens when I arrive in the Nuclear Medicine Dept.?

When you arrive in the Nuclear Medicine Dept., a Nuclear Medicine Technologist will explain to you their bone scan procedure. What happens, in most cases, is that an injection of a small amount of radioactive material, called ^{99m}Tc MDP, will be injected into one of your veins (usually in your arm). Pictures of the blood supply going to your bones may or may not be taken immediately after the injection.

What happens after my injection?

After the injection, there is a delay of a few hours. This delay is necessary to allow the material to accumulate into your bones.

The delay will vary from Dept. to Dept. You will be told at what time to return for further pictures by the Technologist. The length of time spent in the dept. when you return varies for each hospital. Ask your Technologist approximately how long you can expect to be when you return for the 2nd part of your Bone Scan.

What do I have to do to prepare for the test?

There is no preparation prior to having a bone scan. You may continue to eat and drink normally prior to, and after the scan. If you are on any medications, you may continue to take them. Drinking plenty of fluids before and after the injection of the MDP, often helps to give better pictures of your bones. It is also recommended that you void frequently.

How Safe is the Bone Scan?

Any diagnostic procedure may have some risks, and you should consult your physician regarding the risks and benefits of this procedure. ^{99m}Tc-MDP causes minimal side effects, and allergic reactions are rare. The test and material are used routinely worldwide under physician supervision.

What happens when I come back the 2nd time to Nuclear Medicine?

When you come back, empty your bladder before your scan. The Technologist will position you on a bed under a machine called a gamma camera. The camera may or may not pass over you. The scan time will vary depending on what your doctor is looking for. Plan to be in the dept. anywhere from 30-60 minutes.

When will I get my results?

The Nuclear Medicine physician will dictate a report on the results of your test. The report will be sent to your referring Doctor. You should make an appointment with your referring Doctor who will discuss with you the results of your bone scan.