

Please inform a staff member if you:

- Are pregnant or a nursing mother
- Are claustrophobic
- Require the results sent by a specific time or method to your doctor

Additional Information

Remember to remain still while you are being imaged, as movement may blur the images.

The amount of radiation you receive during the test is similar to CT scans.

Adverse side effects to the radioactive tracer are rare. If you do experience any discomfort or feel differently after the injection or during the test, please inform the technologist or doctor.

The radioactive tracer administered remains in your body for a short amount of time and is cleared through normal bodily functions.

There will be no restrictions to your daily routine after the bone scan.

**** 48 HOUR CANCELLATION NOTICE IS REQUIRED** if you cannot keep your appointment- **SPECIAL INJECTIONS ARE ORDERED FOR YOUR TEST** – if you do not provide cancellation notice **YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR THE COST OF THE PRE-ORDERED MEDICATIONS.**

APPOINTMENT DATE: _____

TIME: _____

****Please contact us if you are unable to attend the test or if you have any questions.**

IMPORTANT

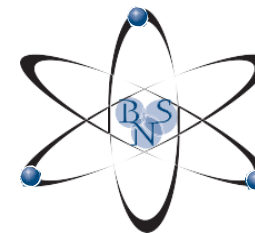
1. Bring **all** medications with you.
2. We suggest you wear comfortable clothes and shoes.
3. If there is a **language** barrier- it is best if you bring someone to **interpret** for the patient.

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Brampton Nuclear Services



BONE SCAN

Patient Information

BONE SCAN

A Nuclear Medicine Bone Scan is a procedure used to assess the functional state of the bones.

A radioactive tracer which emits gamma radiation and localizes to the bones is administered.

This gamma radiation in the bones can be detected by a Gamma Camera and an image is produced.

All the bones in the body may be imaged (a whole-body bone scan) or the focus may be on a specific area (a limited bone scan).

What are the benefits of a nuclear medicine bone scan versus an x-ray?

Nuclear medicine bone scans can be more effective than x-rays because they can detect stress fractures, tumors or infection in the bone earlier.

Bone scans are useful in diagnosing early arthritic changes, and monitoring both the progression of the disease and the effectiveness of treatment.

Patient Preparation

- No preparation required for this test
- It is helpful to bring along any previous x-rays or Nuclear Medicine scans for comparison with the bone scan.

Test Duration

- 30 minutes PART 1
- 45 minutes (approximate) PART 2

What does a Bone Scan involve?

PART 1

You will be given an injection of the radioactive tracer into a vein in your arm.

Images of the blood flow to the area of interest are taken at the time of the injection.

The total time you should allow for the first part of this test is approximately 30 minutes.

The radioactive tracer will then localize into your bones over the next few hours.

It is not necessary to stay in the Nuclear Medicine Department between Part 1 and 2.

PART 2

Ensuring your bladder is empty before the exam begins eliminates the radioactive material from being concentrated in the urinary bladder, obscuring parts of the pelvic bones.

2 – 2 ½ hours after the injection, images will then be taken of your bones. You will need to lie quite still whilst the Gamma Camera takes the images.

The total time you should allow for the second part of this test is on average 45 minutes – 1 hour.

PART 3

On some occasions, more detailed images of a particular area of your bones may be required.

These images usually take up to an additional 20 minutes.

PART 4

A Nuclear Medicine Physician will interpret the images and send a report to your referring doctor that same day.

Sometimes an x-ray may be required to clarify the bone scan findings. This will be organized by the Nuclear Medicine Physician.

What does a Bone Scan investigate?

Some of the more common indications for having this test are:

- Fractures
- Bone tumours
- Joint replacement problems
- Spread of cancer
- Bone infection
- Paget's Disease
- Arthritis
- Sports-related injuries