



Wake Forest University Baptist
MEDICAL CENTER[®]

Urology

Your Bone Scan

Thank you for choosing Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. Please let us know if you have questions or concerns or do not understand the information. Always ask us to explain words or phrases you do not understand.

Your doctor has requested a bone scan. We hope this information will help you know what to expect before, during and after your bone scan.

A bone scan may show changes in the bones that may not be seen on standard x-rays. This test checks the bones for infection, tumor, growth problems or injury. The test takes about 4 hours.

You do not need to do anything special before this test.

Using a small needle, your doctor will put a very small, safe amount of radioactive material into a vein in your arm. It takes 3 hours for the radioactive material to collect in the bones before the pictures can be made.

You will be asked to drink lots of liquid during the 3-hour wait. This helps your body “flush out” radioactive material in the soft tissue around the bones to make the pictures clearer. The material is passed through your urine.

After this injection, you may leave the Nuclear Medicine Department. The technologist will tell you what time to return. Or you may want to bring something to read or to occupy yourself while you wait.

It is important to return for your pictures ON TIME.

Before the pictures are made, you need to remove metal objects such as earrings, belt buckles, etc. Just before the scan begins, you will be asked to use the restroom to empty your bladder.

When you return, you will lie on a special table. The technician will place a large machine close to your body. We will take pictures in front of and behind you. The camera will take pictures for about 45 minutes. You need to remain still and quiet during this part of the test.

After the scan, you can return to your normal routines.

A nuclear medicine doctor will review the pictures. A report of the findings will be sent to your doctor.

Nuclear Medicine Department

Monday – Friday

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

(336) 716-3520

This information is general. If your doctor tells you something different, follow his or her advice and instructions.

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