



## Scan (Nuclear Medicine)

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*You are scheduled for a \_\_\_\_\_ scan.  
A scan is a safe, effective, and painless way to get picture information  
(like an x-ray) about the structure and function of either a specific part of  
the body or the entire body.*

**Preparation:** Before the scan, you will be given a substance containing a very small amount of radioactive material. There should be no adverse effects from the scan. The scanning instrument receives, rather than gives out, radiation. Most procedures take about 1 hour, but this time may vary.

**Procedure:** *Checklist before the scan*

\_\_\_\_\_ You will be able to eat or drink whatever you like.

\_\_\_\_\_ You will not be restricted in activity.

- Please go to the Nuclear Medicine Department. An injection will be given.
- A technician will request that you either:
  - stand, sit, or lie down for the procedure
  - ask you not to move for several minutes while the pictures are taken.

*For patients having a bone scan*

The substance is given in the morning; the scan is done 2 1/2 to 3 hours later. Please empty your bladder completely before the scan.

*For patients having a gallium scan*

The substance will be given and pictures may be taken 24 to 48 hours later. You may need to return for more pictures for up to 3 or 4 days.

After the scan is checked by the doctor, you may eat and drink as usual.

**After the Procedure:**

You may also return to your inpatient unit (or your home or hotel). If you have questions about the procedure, please ask. Your nurse and doctor are ready to assist you at all times.

**Special Instructions:**

- Because it uses radioactivity, this scan is not performed in pregnant women. *If you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant, please inform your doctor immediately so that a decision can be made about this scan.*
- *Also, please inform your doctor immediately if you are breast-feeding.* Some scans can be performed in breast-feeding women if they are willing to stop breast-feeding for a while.



3/00

This information is prepared specifically for patients participating in clinical research at the Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center at the National Institutes of Health and is not necessarily applicable to individuals who are patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your healthcare team.

Questions about the Clinical Center? [OCCC@cc.nih.gov](mailto:OCCC@cc.nih.gov)

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