

Procedures/Diagnostic Tests

MIBG (metaiodobenzylguanidine) scan

You are scheduled for an MIBG (metaiodobenzylguanidine) scan. This scan helps your doctor locate and diagnose certain types of tumors in your body. For this scan, you will be given a compound containing a small amount of radioactivity. You will then return for a scan about 24, 48, and possibly 72 hours later. This scan is done in the Nuclear Medicine Department.

Preparation

- Several medications, including over-the-counter ones, can interfere with this scan. Before your MIBG scan, discuss your medications with your doctor. You will be given special instructions if you must change any of your medications.
- The day before you receive your MIBG injection, you will start taking an iodine solution called SSKI. SSKI prevents the thyroid gland from being damaged by the radioactive iodine injection. You will take several drops of SSKI (which you may dilute in a glass of water or juice) twice a day, starting in the evening before the injection and continuing for 4 days, starting days.

Procedure

- On the first day, a small amount of compound (radioisotope) will be given to you by vein. You may then go back to your room.
- On the second day, you will return to the Nuclear Medicine Department at your scheduled time.
- Once you are in the imaging room, you will rest on a firm table with your head flat. While you lie on your back, a sensitive machine (called a scanner) records the radiation given off by the radioisotope. Lie very still. Many pictures will be taken as the scanner moves from your head to your toes. This scan will last about 3 hours.

This may be all the scanning you will need. The Nuclear Medicine Department staff will let you know if you need to return. Your doctor may request that you take a laxative the night before further scanning to clear your intestines for better scan results.

The next day, if needed, you will return at your scheduled time. Your scan will be similar the one that took place the previous day. This scan will last about 1 or 1 1/2 hours.

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- Continue to take SSKI for a total of 4 days.
 - This scan is painless. The only sensation you will feel will be the injection of the radioisotope in your vein.

After the procedure

There are no restrictions after this scan. You may resume your regular activities.

If you have any questions about the procedure, please ask. Your nurse and doctor are always ready to assist you.

Special instructions

Because it uses radioactivity, this scan is not performed in women who are pregnant or breast-feeding. *If you are pregnant, breast-feeding, or think you might be pregnant, please inform your doctor immediately so that a decision can be made about this scan.*

This information is prepared specifically for persons taking part in clinical research at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center and may not apply to patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your health care team.

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Questions about the Clinical Center?
<http://www.cc.nih.gov/comments.shtml>
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