

Renal Scan – A Nuclear Medicine Exam of Your Kidneys

You have been scheduled for a Renal Scan, which involves the use of a small amount of radioactive material. The level of radioactivity used is extremely low and has no side effects.

You will be positioned next to a special detector called a Gamma Camera. The camera does not produce any radiation. It will be placed close to your abdomen during the test.

Patient Information:

1. Please report to *Goshen Hospital* **15 minutes** prior to your scheduled test time. This time is to allow for the registration process. Please bring your insurance cards.
2. After you are registered, a Nuclear Medicine Technologist will obtain your pertinent medical history.
3. Before the test begins, you will be asked to empty your bladder.
4. You will be positioned flat on your back on an imaging table. A camera will be placed behind your kidneys.
5. The Nuclear Medicine Technologist will inject a radioactive material through a vein in your arm or hand and images will be taken of the blood flow to your kidneys.
6. Images will be taken of your kidneys for one hour, during which time you will be asked to lie very still.
7. The Nuclear Medicine Technologist will process your images after you leave and present them to the attending Radiologist for his/her interpretation.

Patient Preparation:

- Drink plenty of fluids before your exam.

Let the Technologist Know:

For the success of the scan and for your safety, tell the technologist if you:

- Are pregnant or breastfeeding (*or if there is any chance of pregnancy*).
- Have had a Renal Scan before (*or other tests pertaining to your symptoms like a CAT Scan or Ultrasound*).
- Have had any previous kidney problems.
- Have had any kidney surgeries.

You may be asked about your overall health to aid in assessing your images.

For Best Results:

Relax and remain as still as you can. This will help ensure that the images taken will be clear and will not have to be repeated.

Scan Tips:

- Prepare for the test as instructed.
- Ask how long the test will take.
- Bring something you can do while waiting to have your scan.
- Be ready to talk about your health and any allergies you may *have (it may be helpful to write down surgery dates, medications, etc.)*.

My Appointment:

Date:

Time:

Place:

Goshen Hospital
200 High Park Ave.
Goshen, Indiana 46526
574-364-2605

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO KEEP THIS APPOINTMENT, PLEASE CONTACT THE NUCLEAR MEDICINE DEPARTMENT AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF YOUR APPOINTMENT AT 574-364-2605.

Notes:

After Your Scan:

Before leaving, you may have to wait briefly while your images are reviewed by a Radiologist. Sometimes additional views or x-rays are necessary to compliment your test. You may then return to your normal routine. The tracer will leave your body within a few days. To hasten this process, drink extra water and urinate frequently for 24 hour after your scan. Your referring physician will receive a written report from the Renal Scan 24-48 hours after your test is complete.

What is Nuclear Medicine?

Nuclear Medicine is a medical specialty which uses safe, painless and cost-effective techniques both to image the body and treat disease. Nuclear Medicine imaging is unique in that it documents organ function and structure in contrast to Diagnostic Radiology which is based on anatomy. Nuclear Medicine allows your physician to gather medical information which may otherwise be unavailable, require surgery, or necessitate more expensive diagnostic tests.

Nuclear Medicine uses very small amounts of radioactive materials or radiopharmaceuticals to diagnose and treat disease.

Radiopharmaceuticals are substances that are attracted to specific organs, bones or tissues. The radiopharmaceuticals used in Nuclear Medicine emit gamma rays which can be detected externally by special types of cameras called Gamma Cameras. These cameras work in conjunction with computers and are used to create images which provide data and information about the area of the body being imaged.

This patient information sheet was provided to you courtesy of Goshen Hospital Nuclear Medicine Department as part of our commitment to superior healthcare. This is for informational purposes only and is not intended as a substitute for discussion between you and your physician. Please consult with your physician or a member of our Nuclear Medicine Department staff if you would like more information about specific procedures.



Nuclear Medicine Department

Phone: 574-364-2605
Fax: 574-364-2843

Information for our Nuclear Medicine Patients

*Inform your physician if you are pregnant or
breast feeding*

RENAL SCAN

What is a Renal Scan?

A Renal Scan is a special imaging test. It is used to find kidney abnormalities. A Renal Scan uses an injected radioactive matter (tracer) and a camera to form an image. It is a type of Nuclear Medicine Scan. Your doctor has decided that the value of this test outweighs any risk.