

Nuclear Medicine – Bone Scan

To Schedule: (319) 861-7778

Questions about your procedure: (319) 398-6050



701 10th Street SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403-1292
319 398-6011

What is a Nuclear Medicine?

Nuclear medicine uses radioactive materials to help diagnose and treat a wide variety of diseases and disorders. Nuclear medicine provides unique information about the human body and its function. Nuclear medicine helps providers diagnose diseases to make treatment more effective. It is one of the best diagnostic tests for the early detection of certain types of heart disease, thyroid disease, tumors, bone changes, etc.

Preparation:

There are no special preparations for this exam.

Procedure:

A nuclear medicine technologist will inject a small amount of radioactive material called a radiotracer. The radiotracer is typically injected into the bloodstream, but they can also be inhaled or swallowed. The radiotracer travels through the area being examined and gives off energy in the form of radiation which are detected by a special camera and a computer to create images of the inside of your body. Depending on the body parts being imaged, the time needed to acquire images will differ. You are scheduled for one of the three different types of Bone Scans; each is slightly different. Below are the typical procedures for a 3 Phase Bone Scan, a Whole-Body Bone Scan and a Bone Scan with SPECT Imaging.

- **3 Phase Bone Scan:**

Once the initial images are acquired you will be asked to return 2 ½ -3 hours after the injection. This allows time for the radiotracer to concentrate in the bone. If you wish, you can leave the hospital during this time. You will be asked to hydrate yourself by drinking at least 24 to 32 ounces of liquid.

When you return, more images will be taken. This will take about 20-40 minutes depending on which area is being imaged.

- **Whole-Body Bone Scan**

You will be asked to return 2 ½ hours after the injection. This allows time for the radiotracer to concentrate in the bone. If you wish, you can leave the hospital during this time. You will be asked to hydrate yourself by drinking at least 24 to 32 ounces of liquid.

Upon return, images of the whole body will be taken. This will take about 30-40 minutes.

- **Bone Scan with SPECT Imaging**

You will be asked to return 2 ½ hours after the injection. This allows time for the radiotracer to concentrate in the bone. If you wish, you can leave the hospital during this time. You will be asked to hydrate yourself by drinking at least 24 to 32 ounces of liquid.

Upon return, images of the affected area will be taken. This will take about 45-60 minutes.

PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR APPOINTMENT:

A PHOTO ID TO VERIFY YOUR IDENTITY

A LIST OF CURRENT MEDICATIONS YOU ARE TAKING

Parking:

Park in the Mercy Medical Center 10th Street Parking Ramp, located at the corner of 10th Street and 8th Ave. SE. Proceed to **Ground (G)** level and follow the signs to “Radiology (X-Ray),” also located on **Ground (G)** level.

Procedure Results:

A radiologist will review the images shortly after the exam is completed. A written report will be sent to the provider who ordered your exam. Your provider will discuss the results with you. Results will typically be available for your provider within two business days of the exam. Results will also be sent to your MyChart account.