

Fact sheet

Biliary Scan

A Biliary scan is used to assess liver function. It provides information about bile production and drainage through the Biliary tract to the small intestine.

Procedure:

- The scan requires an injection of a small amount of radioactive substance ('tracer') into a vein. The tracer travels to the Liver by the blood stream and is excreted through the bile into the gut.
- The amount of radiation involved is very low. The tracer is non-toxic and will not cause nausea, hot flushes or drowsiness.
- Your child is required to keep very still for the images. We therefore position and gently secure the patient to the scanning table before commencing the study.
- A small plastic tube (cannula) is inserted into a vein and will be used for the injection. For some age groups the tube is taped in place and an arm board and bandage used to keep it secure.
- The tracer is injected with the patient's abdomen positioned under the camera. Imaging is continuous.
- Children can watch a DVD to help pass the time. Please bring along any favourite comfort toys, blankets your child may like to have during the scan,
- The images usually take about 60 minutes to complete.
- After the scan, the technologist will process the images.

We like parents or caregivers to stay during the scan as children are usually more cooperative and less apprehensive when a loved one is with them. However, the number of people present during the scan must be kept to a minimum.

Other children can't be allowed into the procedure room. Please make alternative arrangements for their care during the procedure. Children up to 10 years old may be cared for in the WCH crèche.

Results:

The Biliary scan results will be sent to your child's referring doctor.

Pregnancy / Breast feeding:

Any person either having a Nuclear Medicine scan, or staying with a child during a scan, must inform the Nuclear Medicine staff if they are, or think they might be pregnant.

If you are having a Nuclear Medicine scan and are breastfeeding, please contact Nuclear Medicine staff prior to attending for your appointment.

Patient Identification:

Patient identification is an important step to ensure your child always receives the right care. You will be asked to state your child's name and date of birth several times during the Nuclear Medicine study.

Patient Preparation:

Please be sure to follow instructions carefully to avoid having to rebook the scan.

(1) AnGel Cream-

An anaesthetic cream (AnGel) can be used for children aged 1 month and over. The AnGel cream will numb the skin to help take the "ouch" out of the injection. Please arrive 1 hour before injection time for cream application.

(2) Different patient preparation is required for different age groups.

Children aged less than 2 years must fast from solids and liquids for 4 hours prior to injection time.

Children aged 2 to 4 years will need to fast from solids and liquids for 6 hours prior to injection time.

Children aged over 4 years will need to fast from solids and liquids for 8 hours prior to injection time.

If your child is unwell, or you are unable to attend your appointment please contact the Nuclear Medicine Department on 8161 6020.