

The Finley Hospital Radiology Patient/Family Information
Nuclear Medicine Hepatobiliary Scan
Hilda Scan/Ejection Fraction

What is a Nuclear Medicine Hepatobiliary Exam?

A Nuclear Medicine hepatobiliary exam is a diagnostic exam used to detect or rule out hepatobiliary disorders such as gallbladder disease.

Bile is a chemical, routinely produced by the liver, which is necessary for the digestion of food. In the hepatobiliary system, bile is transported from the liver to the gallbladder, and on to the intestine, via various ducts. However, if the gallbladder forms a stone which lodges in a duct or in the neck of the gallbladder itself, the flow of bile may be blocked. As a result, the gallbladder may become inflamed, causing nausea, abdominal pain or loss of appetite. A Nuclear Medicine hepatobiliary scan is a good way to find or rule out gallbladder disease.

Special Note

Before the exam, please tell your doctor if you are or think you may be pregnant or are nursing.

Preparation

Please bring your medication list with you to your exam.

You will be asked not to eat or drink overnight before your test. (A MINIMUM of 4 hours is required.) This will help make sure the test results are accurate.

Also, some pain medications must be stopped for a minimum of 4 hours before your test. Your doctor's office will tell you which medications must be stopped. No morphine for at least 8 hours.

What Happens During the Test?

A Nuclear Medicine technologist will perform the exam. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask the technologist to answer them before the exam begins. He or she can explain the entire procedure.

The technologist will inject a radiopharmaceutical (a diagnostic drug which contains a very small amount of radioactivity) into a vein in your arm. Then, while you lie flat, a special camera is placed over your abdomen and images are taken of your hepatobiliary system. Typically, many images are taken over approximately 60 minutes. It is important that you lie as still as possible during imaging.

To help determine a diagnosis, your doctor may request an additional set of images during and after an infusion of an intravenous medication called choleystekinin (CCK). This medication mimics the effects of a high-fat meal and will cause your gallbladder to contract. The images will help detect the percentage of gallbladder contraction that shows gallbladder function. If this procedure is requested by your doctor, it will add approximately one hour to the exam and will require an IV. No long term side effects are usually felt.

When Will I Know the Results?

The radiologist will review and interpret the scan shortly after the exam is completed. A written report will be sent to your doctor. Your doctor will discuss these results with you.

Please allow your physician the time needed to review these results.

Name: _____

Exam Date/Time: _____