



Bone scan

Department of Nuclear Medicine

What is a bone scan?

Your bones are living tissue. Bones continually remodel themselves to help repair any damage.

A bone scan will show your doctor how your bones are working and will show any conditions that are different from normal.

There is no preparation required for this scan.

What will happen at my appointment?

When you arrive for your appointment, you will firstly be given a small injection of a radioactive liquid into a vein, usually in the arm or back of the hand. This injection will not have any effect on you, but will allow us to take images of your bones using a gamma camera.

Occasionally we will need to take some images immediately after the injection, these will take 5 minutes.

The bone scan will be carried out three hours after the injection. In this time delay you may leave the department and participate in any normal activities.

We ask that you drink plenty of fluid in this time and empty your bladder frequently.

When you return for the scan, you will be asked to remove any metallic objects, such as belts, keys, coins and zips.

The scan involves you lying on your back on the imaging couch, with a gamma camera positioned above and below you, but open at both sides.

The cameras will start over your head and slowly move down your body, which will take about 30 minutes.

You will be required to stay still for the duration of the scan. Once the scan has been completed the images will be checked. Occasionally, there is a need to repeat some images or obtain additional ones.

What happens after my appointment?

The results from your scan will be sent to the referring consultant within 10 working days. You should contact your consultant after this time to get the results.

If you require further information about your test, please contact us on the numbers below.

Royal Sussex County Hospital Nuclear Medicine department
01273 696955 Ext. 64382

Princess Royal Hospital Nuclear Medicine department
01444 441881 Ext. 5403

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The information in this leaflet is for guidance purposes only and is in no way intended to replace professional clinical advice by a qualified practitioner.

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