



GUIDE



Liver Imaging



The Ottawa Hospital | L'Hôpital
d'Ottawa



Disclaimer

This is general information developed by The Ottawa Hospital. It is not intended to replace the advice of a qualified healthcare provider. Please consult your healthcare provider who will be able to determine the appropriateness of the information for your specific situation.

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Your physician has requested an examination called a “liver scan”. This is a simple and painless way of taking pictures of your liver using a radioactive substance. The procedure may involve two stages, several days apart. You do not need to be fasting for this examination. The procedure is:

1. In the Nuclear Medicine Division a technologist will inject a radioactive substance into a vein in your arm. This injection is sometimes performed while you are lying down and a special detector, called a gamma camera, has been positioned over your abdomen to take a series of pictures to image the flow of blood to your liver. This takes only a couple of minutes. The amount of radioactivity injected is very small and will have no adverse effect on you.
2. You will then be asked to wait about 10 minutes while the tracer accumulates in your liver. You will experience no reaction to the radioactive substance.
3. After this short wait, the camera will again be placed over your abdomen and images will be taken from different angles, either with a camera which will be positioned from different angles by the technologist or with a camera which will make a 360° rotation round your body taking many pictures. This takes about 30 minutes. The camera does not produce radiation; it simply picks up signals (gamma rays) from the radioactive substance which was injected.
4. You may then return home or, if you are hospitalized, return to your room feeling no ill effects from the examination. The results will be sent directly to your physician.
5. If it is necessary to proceed to the second part of the examination, using a different radioactive substance, this will be done several days later. The procedure is similar to the one above except that you will receive two injections and the second part of the imaging will be done 2 hours after the injection.

Important:

If you think you may be pregnant or if you are breast feeding, please inform the technologist before you receive your injection.

If you have any questions regarding these instructions, please call the Nuclear Medicine Division at 613-761-4831 ext. 8.

Notes