

# BILIARY (HIDA) SCAN

## Information Brochure



NORTH SHORE RADIOLOGY  
& NUCLEAR MEDICINE

North Shore Private Hospital  
Westbourne Street, St Leonards 2065  
Tel: (02) 8425 3684, Fax: (02) 8425 3688

Nuclear Medicine Physicians  
Dr Elizabeth Bernard FRACP  
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# INSTRUCTIONS FOR PATIENTS HAVING A BILIARY (HIDA) SCAN

## **What is it?**

This is a test which evaluates the biliary system and your gall-bladder.

## **How is the test done and how long does it take?**

After the test is explained to you, a needle will be placed into a vein in your arm (usually near the elbow) and you will be given an injection of a small amount of a radioactive compound. A specialised camera is then used to take scans of your upper abdomen. These are taken for 1 hour. In some cases, an injection of a substance which normally contracts the gall bladder (CCK) is required and imaging is continued for another 30 minutes.

## **Is it painful and are there any side effects?**

No. There are no side effects or reactions from the HIDA injection. The injection does NOT contain iodine and is therefore safe to give if you have had a previous allergic reaction to X-ray contrast injections. If you require the CCK injection you may notice some nausea, abdominal pain or belching. If this occurs, it generally lasts less than 10 minutes. There are, however, no serious side effects with the CCK injection. Although you will be required to keep still during the scan, the procedure itself is completely painless. There is no need to hold your breath during the test.

## **Should I take my normal medications?**

Pain medications containing morphine should be ceased prior to the scan. Check with your doctor to see how long you should be off of them for, it is usually about 24-48 hours. All other medications can be taken.

## **Can I eat and drink on the day of my test?**

No. You should fast for at least 4 hours prior to the commencement of the test.

## **What if I am pregnant?**

The test is usually not performed in pregnant women, so if you know that you are (or think you might be) pregnant, please inform us before the test begins.

## **Will I get the result when I leave?**

In general, the scans and results are sent to your doctor the next working day. Depending on the type of scan you are having (and the clinical urgency), you may be able to take the scan with you in some cases, however there will be a delay while the report is typed.

## **Can I drive home after the scan?**

Yes. You will not be drowsy in any way.

## **What should I do on the day of the test?**

Please remember to bring your requesting letter and any recent X-rays or CT scans. At the time of your appointment, report to North Shore Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, which is located on the ground floor of North Shore Private Hospital in Westbourne St.

If you have any questions please phone North Shore Radiology and Nuclear Medicine on 8425 3684. We will be happy to answer any queries that you may have.

An appointment has been made for you at

Time:

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Date:

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Estimate:

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If you are unable to keep your appointment please notify us as early as possible so we can arrange a more suitable time.

Please bring with you all previous X-rays and scans that you have in your possession.

## Parking

Metered street parking is available on Westbourne Street. Parking is also available in the multi-storey car parks P1 & P2. Concession, daily and weekly passes are available for purchase at the Parking Office located in the P2 multi-storey car park. The Parking Office also has information about long-term parking costs and conditions. Valet Parking is available from the main entrance of North Shore Private Hospital via Westbourne Street.



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