



UnityPoint Health

Cedar Rapids

CARDIOLOGY CLINIC

Regional Medical Center

709 W Main Street, Suite 100

Manchester, IA 52057

800/982-1959 or 563/927-2855

Unitypoint.org/cardiologyclinic

Appointment:

Date: _____

Time: _____

Nuclear Medicine Hepatobiliary Exam (HIDA)

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 is not functioning properly, the flow of bile may be disrupted. 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 before your test. A minimum of 4 hours is required. (Do NOT fast for greater than 10 hours.) 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. These include morphine or other prescription medications. Your doctor's office will tell you which medications must be stopped.

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 (an imaging agent 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.



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To help determine a diagnosis, your doctor may request a medication called cholecystekinin (CCK) to be given. 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. The CCK may cause you to have nausea, abdominal pain and/or cramping, but these symptoms should end when the medication is stopped. No long-term side effects are usually felt.

The time needed to complete this test is 2 hours.

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It is important that you understand your testing procedure. We encourage you to ask any questions of your doctor, nurse or Nuclear Medicine personnel.

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.

Important Billing Information

If you are unable to keep your testing appointment, you must contact UnityPoint Health-Cardiology Clinic 24 hours prior to your test time. Scheduled testing appointments that are missed or cancelled without the 24 hour advance notice may be subject to charges for pharmaceuticals or supplies specifically ordered for your test.