



St. Luke's Imaging Services Patient/Family Information  
**Nuclear Medicine Hepatobiliary Scan  
(HIDA SCAN)**

## **What is a Nuclear Medicine Hepatobiliary Exam?**

Hepatobiliary imaging is a type of nuclear medicine imaging that helps evaluate the liver, gallbladder and the ducts that are part of the biliary system.

## **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 in an emergency situation.) 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.

## **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 cholecystekinin (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. 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.

## **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.

## **Outpatient Instructions**

Please register at the Outpatient Registration desk at the West Entrance. After registering, testing will be done in the Imaging Services department on the second floor. Please use the elevators past registration on the left.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Exam date/time \_\_\_\_\_