



St. Luke's Imaging Services Patient/Family Information

Nuclear Medicine Renal Scan

What is a Renal Scan?

A Nuclear Medicine renal scan is a diagnostic exam used to evaluate kidney function and kidney anatomy.

Special Note

Before the exam, please tell your doctor if you are or think you may be pregnant or are nursing.

Preparation

Please bring you medication list with you to your exam.

Fluids are encouraged on the day of the study and from the time of arrival in the department until the time of the injection. For infants, fluids may include an additional bottle or breast feeding. Older children are encouraged to drink water or orange juice.

If hydration by IV is necessary (when sedation is used during the exam) fluids will be administered per hospital protocol.

Sedation is sometimes required in children. Hospital staff will contact a parent or guardian in such a case with specific instructions.

What Happens During the Test?

A Nuclear Medicine technologist will perform the exam.

Three different types of renal exams may be ordered by your physician:

- 1) You will be given an injection in a vein in your arm and asked to return 4 hours later for images that take approximately 30 minutes. When imaging is completed, you will be allowed to leave.
- 2) You will be given an injection in a vein in your arm and images will be done immediately after the injection. The images take approximately 30-40 minutes. When imaging is completed, you will be allowed to leave.
- 3) Occasionally two scans are done on the same day. One exam is a baseline study and another exam is done after an ACE-inhibitor (a pill) is given to determine if there is a narrowing of the kidney blood vessel. This will take 2 – 2 ½ hours.

Who interprets the results and how do I get them?

A radiologist will review the images shortly after the exam is completed. A written report will be sent to your doctor. Your doctor will discuss the 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 _____