

UnityPoint Health - Finley Hospital Radiology Patient/Family Information
Nuclear Medicine Liver Scan

What is a Liver Scan?

A Nuclear Medicine liver scan is a diagnostic exam used to evaluate the size of the liver and/or the spleen. This exam is also done to diagnose disease of the liver.

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.

There is no preparation for the liver scan, however, if you have recently had a barium study, the liver scan may not be scheduled for a few days as the barium could interfere with the liver images.

If this is the only exam you are having, there are no diet or activity restrictions before or after your exam. If other exams are scheduled along with your Nuclear Medicine liver scan, you may be asked to follow other instructions. The Nuclear Medicine staff will help you understand all of your instructions.

What Happens During the Test?

A Nuclear Medicine technologist will perform the exam. You will be given an injection of a radiopharmaceutical (a radioactive material) in a vein in your arm. The material will circulate through the body for 20-30 minutes at which time images will be taken by lying on a table with cameras rotating around the body. These images will take approximately 30 minutes at which time the exam will be completed and you will be allowed to leave.

When Will I Know the Results?

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 these results with you.

Please allow your physician the time needed to review these results.

Name: _____

Exam Date/Time: _____