

If there is a chance you could be pregnant, please tell the tech.

Renal Scan

About the Test

A renal scan is an exam that shows the size, shape and function of your kidneys using a radioactive tracer. The amount of radiation used in this test is small and well within limits that are not harmful. The exam is done in the Nuclear Medicine department and lasts about 1 hour.

Before the Test

There is no preparation for the test.

On the day of the test, plan to arrive 15 minutes before your test time. Be sure to bring:

- Your doctor's written order for the test.
- A list of allergies.
- A list of all your current medications (prescription, over-the-counter, and herbals).
- Medical insurance information.
- Medicare card (Medicare patients only).

Please come to the 8th floor reception desk in the Galter Pavilion, 201 E. Huron St.

Parking is available for patients and visitors in the garage at 222 E. Huron, across from the Feinberg and Galter pavilions. For discounted rates, please bring your parking ticket with you. Tickets can be validated at the Customer Services Desks on the 1st and 2nd floor of the Feinberg and Galter pavilions; 1st floor of Prentice (including the Prentice 24-hour desk near the Superior entrance).

During the Test

When you arrive in the Nuclear Medicine department, a nurse will ask you questions about your medical history. If there is a chance you could be pregnant or if you are breastfeeding, please tell the technologist (tech).

The tech will ask you to lie on an imaging table. A radioactive tracer is then injected IV (into the vein). A special camera detects the tracer and takes pictures of your kidneys and bladder for 30 minutes. At the end of this time, the tech will ask you to empty your bladder. Then, you will stand in front of the camera as one more picture of your kidneys and bladder is taken. A doctor will review your renal scan before you leave.

After the Test

You may resume your normal activities and diet. The IV tracer you were given is not harmful and becomes non-radioactive within hours. The test results are sent to your doctor within 5 days of the exam.

If you have any questions about this test, please call the Nuclear Medicine department at 312-926-2514, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Health Information Resources

For more information, visit one of Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Health Learning Centers. These state-of-the-art health libraries are located on the third floor of the Galter Pavilion and on the first floor of the Prentice Women's Hospital. Health information professionals are available to help you find the information you need and provide you with personalized support at no charge. You may contact the Health Learning Centers by calling 312-926-LINK (5465) or by sending an e-mail to hlc@nmh.org.

For additional information about Northwestern Memorial Hospital, please visit our Web site at www.nmh.org.

Para asistencia en español, por favor llamar a el departamento de representantes para pacientes al 312-926-3112.

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Developed by: Department of Nuclear Medicine

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