

Nuclear Medicine Red Cell Liver Scan

Patient Information Sheet No. NM 13

Your appointment:

Date:

Time:

Location:

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Please see our website or the back of this form for more branch details.

Duration of Examination:

The scan is performed in two parts. The total duration you will be required is five and a half hours. You will have three hours of free time during this period.

Please bring with you:

- Your request form
- All previous relevant imaging
- Medicare and any Healthcare cards

Payment on the day of the examination is requested.

For more information on this procedure please call one of our branches.

For more information regarding Benson Radiology please visit:
www.bensonradiology.com.au

What is a Red Cell Liver scan?

A Red Cell Liver Scan is used to assess and determine the nature of lesions found in the liver. This procedure is very successful in identifying haemangiomas, which are cysts containing blood.

Preparation needed prior to the examination:

There is no specific preparation for this examination. You may continue your current medications as normal. A chest x-ray from within the last 24 hours is required for the scan to be performed.

What will happen during the examination?

The scan is performed in two parts. The first part of the examination requires a sample of your blood to be 'labelled' with a radioactive tracer. A small cannula is inserted into a vein in your arm. A sample of your blood is collected into a syringe and then mixed with the radioactive tracer. This 'labelled' sample is then reinjected into your arm via the same cannula. The tracer allows your blood to be visualised as it passes through your liver. You will be positioned on a scanning bed and a special machine called a gamma camera will pass around your abdomen while taking a series of pictures from various angles. This imaging takes about 20 minutes to perform.

This completes the first part of the procedure. You will be asked to return about three hours later for the images to be repeated. During these three hours you are allowed to leave the department, eat and drink. There are no restrictions as to what you do. You are also welcome to stay in the department if you desire.

The second part of the examination does not involve any further injections. Images are taken, with the same gamma camera, to assess how your blood has moved through your liver during the three hour break. This second stage will take approximately 45 minutes and concludes your examination.

Are there any risks?

This examination has no associated side effects.

Pregnant and Breast Feeding Patients, and Carers of Infants:

This examination is **not suitable** for pregnant women.

Breastfeeding mothers may undergo the procedure, but will need to **cease breast feeding for 12 hours after** the scan. Breast milk should be expressed and discarded during this period. Breast feeding may resume after the 12 hours.

Carers of infants and young children should avoid prolonged close contact for 12 hours following the scan. Maintaining a distance of one metre from infants and young children is recommended.

After the examination:

The nuclear medicine specialist will review and report on your images. This can take up to 90 minutes. For your convenience we can generally deliver the images and report to your doctor by the next working day. Alternatively your doctor may request that you return later to collect the imaging and report.

It is important you understand why and how we will be assisting you. If you have any questions, please call one of our branches or speak to our staff on the day of your visit.

