

# Southernex



Imaging Group Ltd

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## NUCLEAR MEDICINE BONE SCANS

### Patient Information

**This procedure can be performed on individual body areas or on the whole skeleton.**

It is only carried out by a Doctor trained in Nuclear Medicine and a Nuclear Medicine Technologist.

Nuclear Medicine Bone Scans show bony structures and assist in the detection of bone and joint abnormalities.

There are many reasons for requesting this procedure and your doctor should explain its importance in your particular case.

The equipment is very specialized and is only available at **The Wesley Hospital, Caboolture Hospital, Nambour and Maryborough**. In urgent cases, an appointment at notice can always be arranged.

#### Preparation

**You do not need to fast** for this examination. If you are having other examinations on the same day as your bone scan which do require fasting, e.g. CT Scans of the abdomen, you no longer need to continue fasting once these are completed.

#### Examination Time

For bone scans, you will need to be available at 2 separate times on the same day about 2-4 hours apart depending on camera availability.

The first appointment is for about 15 minutes (for the injection and any initial soft tissue imaging necessary) and the second for up to 1 hour (for detailed bone imaging).

## Procedure

You will not need to undress. Please wear minimal jewellery. You will receive an injection from the doctor, usually into a vein in the elbow, of a specially treated fluid which circulates in the blood and is absorbed by all the bones.

The fluid has a very low level of radioactivity (just enough to allow us to record an image of the area of interest) and is excreted from the body in your urine.

There is only a very small chance of a mild allergy to the injection, but please tell the Doctor or Nuclear Medicine Technologist of ANY allergies BEFORE the injection is given.

**If you are Pregnant or breast feeding, please notify the staff at the time of making the appointment as the scan may need to be modified or postponed.**

After the injection and any initial soft tissue imaging is done, you are asked to return for the bone scan which is taken on a special large camera. This is placed against the area under examination whilst you lie down or sit up. The procedure is totally painless.

You will only be required to stay still for a maximum of 20 or 30 minutes for each image (with no breath holding) while these images are processed by the computer.

In between the injection and the bone scan you are free to leave the x-ray rooms and also to eat and drink.

The films and report are usually available for you to take back to your doctor 60 minutes after the filming and processing procedure is completed, depending on the complexity of the examination. Alternatively, they can be collected later that day or delivered directly to your doctor the next working day.

**For all nuclear medicine procedures other than bone scans, the procedure and preparation for the scan will be explained in detail at the time of making the appointment.**

**For further enquiries about this procedure, contact our rooms at:**  
Caboolture Hospital (07) 5498 3055  
Maryborough (07) 4121 2767  
Nambour (07) 5441 3677  
The Wesley Hospital (07) 3371 9588  
**[www.southernxray.com.au](http://www.southernxray.com.au)**

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