

Nuclear Medicine Patient Prep

The preparation required for your exam depends on the type of scan you are receiving. The below table outlines some more information regarding the types of prep required for different scans.

Test	About the Test	Patient Preparation	Test Procedure
Biliary Scan	A biliary scan is used to evaluate the function of the liver, gall bladder and bile ducts	Nothing to eat or drink 4 hours prior to test.	The test involves an injection and a scan for 1 hour with further imaging required 1-3 hours later.
Bone Scan	A bone scan is used to diagnose and monitor bone disease.	No preparation.	The test involves an injection (15-30 minutes) and then imaging 2-4 hours later for 45 minutes.
Gallium Scan	A gallium scan is used to detect infection in the body.	No preparation.	The test involves an injection and 48 hours later returning for a scan for 1 hour.
Liver & Spleen Scan	A liver and spleen scan is used to evaluate the size, shape and composition of the liver and spleen.	No preparation.	The test involves an injection followed by a scan for 30 minutes.
Lung Scan (V/Q Scan)	A lung scan is used to see if there are any blood clots in the lungs.	No preparation.	The test involves breathing in a radioactive gas followed by a scan and then an injection followed by a scan. Total time is 45 minutes to 1 hour.
Parathyroid	A parathyroid scan is used to evaluate the function of the parathyroid glands.	No preparation.	This test involves an injection and scan (30 minutes) and returning 3-4 hours later for a scan (1 hour).
Renal Scan with Diuretic	A renal scan is used to show the blood flow and function of the kidneys. A diuretic medication is given to determine if there are any blockages between the kidneys and the bladder.	Drink 3-4 glass fluids/water prior to the test.	This test involves an injection and scan for 1 hour.

Renal Scan with Captopril	A renal scan is used to show the blood flow and function of the kidneys. Captopril medication is given to determine if there is any blockages in the blood flow to the kidneys.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check with your doctor about stopping medications. • Drink 4-5 glasses of fluids/water prior to the test. • No food 4 hours prior to the test. • Bring a list of medications. 	The test involves swallowing a medication, waiting 1 hour and then having an injection followed by a scan for 45 minutes.
Salivary Scan	A salivary scan is used to evaluate the function of the salivary glands and whether or not there are any blockages from the salivary glands to the mouth.	No preparation.	This test involves an injection followed by a scan for 1 hour.
Sentinel Node Scan	A sentinel node scan is used to identify the first lymph node that drains from a certain area of the body.	No preparation.	This test involves injections followed by a scan immediately or 2-3 hours later. Imaging can take up to 2 hours.
Thyroid Uptake and Scan	A thyroid uptake and scan evaluates the function of the thyroid gland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check with your doctor about stopping medications or vitamins. • No CT contrast for 30 days prior to test. 	The test involves swallowing a capsule (30 minutes) and 24 hours later, returning for an injection and scan (1 hour).
Wall Motion (MUGA)	A MUGA scan is used to evaluate how well the walls of the heart are moving and how effectively your heart is pumping the blood.	No preparation.	The test involves injections followed by a scan, taking about 1.5 hours.