

Biliary Scan

Patient Information



What is a biliary scan?

Your doctor has referred you to us for a radionuclide biliary scan. This is a simple test which is usually carried out to assess the function of your gallbladder. Its role is to demonstrate the flow of bile in the body.

Bile produced by the liver is stored in the gall bladder and then released on demand through bile ducts into the bowel to aid digestion - this test follows the flow patterns of bile. The test can demonstrate blockages of bile ducts (both inside the liver and outside the liver), reflux of bile into the stomach, and can show whether the gall bladder and the important muscles at the junction of the main bile duct and the bowel are working normally. The test is usually used for patients with abdominal pain that is thought to be due to problems with the gall bladder or bile duct.

What preparation is required?

No food or drink for 6 hours before the study. You may sip on water to take medications.

If you are diabetic inform the staff when you make your appointment. If you take insulin, bring it with you.

What documentation is required?

Bring your referral and any relevant previous images for comparison.

Also bring your Medicare card, Pension or Healthcare card or Veteran's Affairs card details if applicable.

Also bring a list of the medications you are taking.

What you need to tell us prior to your appointment?

Please advise us if you are pregnant, or breast feeding, or unsure of your pregnancy status before commencing the procedure.

Breastfeeding mothers can undergo the procedure but will need to cease any breast feeding activities for 12 hours after the scan, with breast milk to be expressed and discarded during this period. Note, however, that breast feeding may resume 12 hours post procedure.

What will happen during the procedure?

Note, you will not be required to undress at any stage during the procedure.

You should wear comfortable clothing. We may ask you to remove metallic objects.

One of our technologists will give you an intravenous injection of a small amount of radioactive liquid into a vein in your arm. This liquid will show the bile moving from your liver to your gallbladder and into your gut.

Images of your gallbladder are taken for an hour immediately after the injections. You will be required to lie on a table with the camera over you for a minimum of 45 minutes.

In some cases you may require another injection to help your gall bladder to empty. This process may take another 40 minutes.

How long will the procedure take?

1½ to 2½ hours in total.

What can you expect after your examination?

There are no side effects with this procedure. Once it is over you will be able to continue performing your usual daily activities, including eating and driving.

However, carers of infants and young children should avoid prolonged close contact for 12 hours following the scan. Maintaining an arm's length distance from infants and young children is recommended.

Are there any risks?

You will receive a dose of radiation. The benefits of detecting disease are considered to outweigh any potential risks from receiving such a dose.

Please, however, advise the Radiographer if you are, or think you may be, pregnant.

What happens with the images and report?

After your examination a report, based on the images taken, will be provided directly to your referring doctor.

We store digital copies of all studies and reports on our secure patient information system for comparison with any future examinations.

Your appointment details

Date

Time

Location



Chatswood Radiology
Clarence Valley Imaging
North Coast Radiology
Ryde Radiology