

# Captopril Renal Scan

## Patient Information



### What is a Captopril Renal scan?

Your doctor has referred you to us for a Nuclear Medicine captopril renal isotope scan. This is a simple test which is usually carried out to determine whether hypertension (high blood pressure) is caused by narrowing in the artery supplying the kidney.

### What preparation is required?

Please have a list of all medications available when booking your appointment, as some medications can influence scan results.

As you will need to be well hydrated for your examination, you will be required to drink one litre of water one hour prior to the scan. Please note it is not a requirement to have a full bladder at the time of the scan.

### 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.

This examination is not suitable for pregnant women.

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.

The radiation dose is very small, and reactions are virtually unknown. This liquid will be rapidly excreted by your kidneys. The images of this excretion are recorded by a gamma camera.

After this, you will be given a blood pressure medication called Captopril that assists in detecting any narrowing of the arteries supplying blood to your kidneys. Your blood pressure will be monitored for one hour.

The injection and imaging process is then repeated.

### How long will the procedure take?

The procedure comprises two parts. The first part takes approximately 30 minutes, whilst the second part takes approximately 90 minutes. Note, you may leave the premises in between the two examination parts.

### 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 reports?

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.



Chatswood Radiology  
Clarence Valley Imaging  
North Coast Radiology  
Ryde Radiology

### Your appointment details

Date

Time

Location