



Renal DSMA Scan

PATIENT INFORMATION

What is a Nuclear Medicine DMSA Renal Scan?

A Nuclear Medicine DMSA Renal Scan is an imaging test that evaluates kidney structure and function using a radioactive tracer called DMSA. It helps detect kidney scarring, infections, and abnormalities by showing how well different parts of the kidneys absorb the tracer.

What will happen during the examination?

A DMSA Renal Scan is a two part test. In the first part you will receive a small injection into a vein (usually in your arm). This injection will not interfere with any medications you may be taking. It contains a small amount of radioactive material that enables the camera to image your kidneys. All up the first part will take approximately 5 minutes only.

The second part of the study will be performed anywhere from 2 to 4 hours after your initial injection. The exact time will be confirmed with you on the day. When you return for the second part you will have pictures of your kidneys taken. Please allow at least an hour for this part.

Between the first and second part of the study you will be free to leave the department and do as you please. There are no ill effects from the injection and there are no restrictions placed on you.

Pregnant and/or breastfeeding

This examination is not suitable for pregnant women.

Breastfeeding mothers should contact our department before their appointment to discuss any specific preparation. We suggest avoiding feeding from the breast and prolonged close contact with your baby for 12 to 24 hours after the injection. Feeding your baby with expressed breast milk or formula is recommended during this time. Patients who will be the primary care-giver to child under five on the day of the test, are recommended to maintain a certain distance (around 1 metre) from the children where possible. This is not essential but is recommended in the 12 hours following injection, to avoid very young children being exposed to small amounts of radioactivity unnecessarily.

After the examination

Our radiologist will review and report on your images and we will deliver them electronically to your doctor.



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