

Procedures/Diagnostic Tests

Liver-spleen scan

You are scheduled for a liver-spleen scan. This scan helps your doctor study the structure and function of your liver. It is a safe, effective, and painless way to obtain a picture (similar to an x-ray) of your liver and spleen. The scan uses a compound containing a small amount of radioactive material. The compound is used only for diagnostic purposes. The scan takes place in the Nuclear Medicine Department.

Preparation

There is no preparation. You may eat or drink whatever you like before the scan.

Procedure

- A small amount of radioactive compound will be given to you by vein. You will feel a pinprick as this injection is given.
- Pictures will be taken of your mid-abdomen with a very sensitive machine (gamma camera). This camera detects the how your liver and spleen take up the compound.
- Stay very still while the pictures are being taken.
- The procedure lasts about 1 hour.

After the procedure

There should be no adverse effects. Your body rids itself of the compound as it does the food you eat.

If you have questions about the procedure, please ask. Your nurse and doctor are ready to assist you at all times.

Special instructions

- Because it uses radioactivity, this scan is not performed in pregnant women. *If you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant, please inform your doctor immediately so that a decision can be made about this study.*
- *Also, please inform your doctor immediately if you are breast-feeding.* Some scans can be performed in breast-feeding women if they are willing to stop breast-feeding for a while.

This information is prepared specifically for persons taking part in clinical research at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center and may not apply to patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your health care team.

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