Renal Scan

A *renal* (kidney) scan is a procedure used to look at the kidneys using *radioactive isotopes*. *Isotopes* are substances which give off radioactive *emissions* (rays). These rays are picked up by a special camera which is similar to a Geiger counter. These particular isotopes will go to the area in your body your caregiver wants to study. This camera then produces images on film which your caregivers will interpret. These radioactive compounds are very short lived and last in your body for a very short time. They are not harmful to you.

LET YOUR CAREGIVERS KNOW ABOUT THE FOLLOWING:

- Allergies
- Medications taken including herbs, eye drops, over the counter medications, and creams
- Use of steroids (by mouth or creams)
- Previous problems with anesthetics or novocaine
- Possibility of pregnancy, if this applies
- History of blood clots (thrombophlebitis)
- History of bleeding or blood problems
- Previous surgery
- Other health problems

PREPARATION FOR SCAN

- You will be asked to drink extra fluids for twenty-four hours prior to and following your exam. Follow instructions carefully.

BEFORE YOUR PROCEDURE

Arrive one hour prior to your procedure or as suggested by your caregiver. Check in at the admissions desk for filling out necessary forms if not pre-registered. There may be consent forms to sign before the procedure. There is a waiting area available for friends and family should they accompany you while you are having your procedure.

PROCEDURE

- A small needle will be placed in a vein in your arm or hand. It may stay in place for the entire exam.
- A small amount of very short acting radioactive material will be injected. This should cause no side effects.
- Your kidneys will then be scanned using a special camera that will record the images. This part of the exam takes about one hour.
- A *radiologist* (specialist in reading x-rays) can then evaluate the films and give his impression to your caregiver.
- Following the test you may go home unless otherwise instructed. Resume normal activities and diet as instructed. **Do force fluids** for the next 24 hours. This eliminates the material that was injected more quickly from your system.

For the protection of your privacy, test results can not be given over the phone. Make sure you receive the results of your test. Ask as to how these results are to be obtained if you have not been informed. **It is your responsibility to obtain your test results.**

Document Released: 04/07/2004 Document Re-Released: 03/16/2010
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