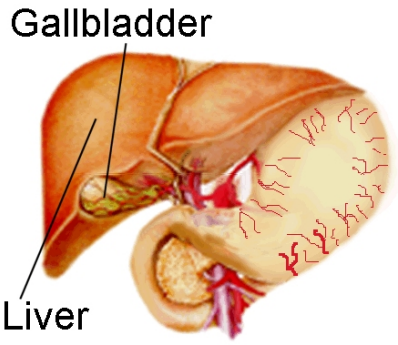
HIDA (Hepatobiliary) Scan

Your caregiver has suggested that you have a HIDA Scan. This is also known as a hepatobiliary scan. Your liver is the organ in your body that produces bile. The bile is then collected in the gallbladder. The bile is stored and concentrated in the gallbladder. The bile is *excreted* (passed) into the small intestine when it is needed for digestion. Because bile is always needed for fat processing, you may feel a gallbladder attack after eating a fatty meal. A stone can block the *duct* (tube) leading from the gallbladder to the small intestine. This can cause an *inflammation* of the gallbladder (*cholecystitis*). The HIDA Scan helps evaluate the *hepatobiliary system* (liver and gallbladder and their ducts).



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

- Eat a high fat meal the night before the exam.
- Eat nothing after midnight.
- Take medications with a small amount of water.

BEFORE YOUR PROCEDURE

You should be present one hour prior to your procedure. Check in at the admissions desk to fill out necessary forms, if you are not preregistered. You may need to sign consent forms before the procedure. Should friends or family accompany you, there is a waiting area available for them while you are having your procedure.

PROCEDURE

- A small needle will be placed in your arm. The needle will stay there for the entire exam.
- A small amount of very short acting radioactive material will be injected. This should cause no side effects.
- While lying down a special camera will be placed over your *abdomen* (belly). This camera is used to detect the injected material. The camera will place images on film. A *radiologist* (specialist in reading x-rays) can evaluate the images. It will help determine how well your gallbladder is working.
- You will then be given a material called CCK. This will make your gallbladder contract. It occasionally causes *symptoms* (problems) that mimic a gallbladder attack or the feeling you have after eating a fatty meal.
- The entire test may take a couple hours. Your caregiver can give you more accurate times. Following the test you may go home and resume normal activities and diet as instructed.

Ask your caregiver how you are to find out your results. **Remember it is your responsibility to find out the results of your test.** Do not assume everything is all right or “normal” if you have not heard from your caregiver.

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