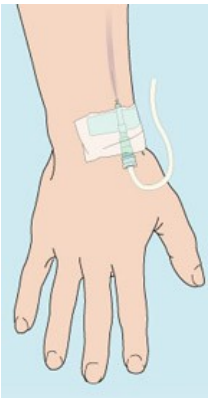
Bone Scan

A bone scan is a test that checks your bones for changes or damage. One of the most common uses for this exam is to check for osteopenia or osteoporosis.

HOW DO I GET READY FOR THIS TEST?

There is no preparation for this test.



HOW IS A BONE SCAN DONE?

- You will be given medicine through an IV in your arm or hand. The medicine is slowly taken into your bones and lets your bones show up on the scan. You will not feel anything different. The radioactive material is used specifically to target your bones allowing your doctor to see areas of:
  - Weakness.
  - Wear.
  - Damage.
- After the medicine is given, you will need to drink about 3 big glasses of liquid. You can choose to drink any liquid that is non-alcoholic.
- Your scan will start after your bones have had time to soak up the medicine.
- Before the scan starts, you need to go pee. Make sure no drops of pee get on your skin or clothes. These drops may make the scan hard to read.
- The scan takes about 1 hour. You will be lying down while the camera takes scans of your bones from head to toe.
- After the exam, all of the radioactive material will eventually leave your body through your pee. The radioactive material used is in such a small amount you should have no long-term effect from this test. The radioactive material that you will be peeing out will not be harmful for your family or other people around you.

AFTER THE SCAN

The scans of your bones will be checked. Sometimes more pictures may be needed.

FINDING OUT THE RESULTS OF YOUR TEST

Not all test results are available during your visit. If your test results are not back during the visit, make an appointment with your doctor to find out the results. Do not assume everything is normal if you have not heard from your doctor or the medical facility. It is important for you to follow up on all of your test results.

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