Bone Scan

Department of Radiology, 319-398-6050

WHAT IT IS:
A bone scan is the filming of bone images following an intravenous injection (usually in the arm) of a radioactive tracer material. It detects musculoskeletal pain, possible metastatic disease, bone infection, arthritis and stress fracture. The procedure takes about 45 minutes.

PREPARATION:
No special preparation is needed. If you are pregnant or think you might be, notify your doctor and tell the technologist when you arrive in the department.

PROCEDURE:
1. Two to three hours before the scan you will receive an injection of a radioactive compound (tracer material). In instances where bone infection or recent fracture is suspected, images may be taken at the time of the injection.
2. You may leave the hospital between the injection time and the scanning time.
3. Drink 4 to 6 8-ounce glasses of liquid after the injection and before the scan. Meals may be eaten between the injection and scan also.
4. After the waiting period, return to the Nuclear Medicine Department. You will be placed on a table and a gamma camera will be used to image the bones. Sometimes rotating cameras are used to produce 3-dimensional pictures of the body.

FOLLOW-UP:
The radiologist will read the scan and send a written report to your doctor.

OUTPATIENT REGISTRATION:
Please arrive 20 minutes before your scheduled appointment time. Park in the Mercy Medical Center Parking Ramp, located at the corner of 8th Street and 8th Avenue SE. You must register PRIOR to your procedure. Upon entering the hospital, proceed to Ground (G) level and follow the signs to “Registration.” After 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or on the weekends, proceed to Ground (G) level and follow the signs to the “Emergency Department” and register there. After registering, follow the signs to “Radiology (X-Ray),” also located on Ground (G) level.

Your appointment date and time: ________________________________