



Nuclear Medicine: Bone Scan Procedure

To Schedule: (319) 861-7778

Questions about Procedure: (319) 398-6050

701 10th Street SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403-1292
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What is a Bone Scan procedure?

A bone scan is an exam that evaluates the physiology of the bone. This is different from an x-ray that examines structure.

A small amount of radioactive tracer is injected into a vein in the arm. The tracer concentrates itself in the bone enabling a physician to visualize the skeletal structure.

A bone scan is ordered for several reasons. Some reasons include stress fractures, arthritic changes, bone infection and metastatic disease.

Preparation:

There is no special preparation for this exam.

PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR APPOINTMENT:

A PHOTO ID TO VERIFY YOUR IDENTITY

A LIST OF CURRENT MEDICATIONS YOU ARE TAKING

Procedure:

There are three different types of bone scans that can be ordered. They have differences in how they are performed.

3 Phase Bone Scan:

You will be positioned on the imaging table and images will be taken while the radiotracer is injected in a vein. This is to assess the blood flow to the area of concern. The whole procedure will take about 20 minutes.

Once the initial images are acquired you will be asked to return three hours after the injection. This allows time for the radiotracer to concentrate in the bone. If you wish, you can leave the hospital during this time. You will be asked to hydrate yourself by drinking at least 24 to 32 ounces of liquid.

When you return, more images will be taken. This will take about 20-40 minutes depending on which area is being imaged.

Whole Body Bone Scan

A small amount of radiotracer will be injected into a vein.

You will be asked to return 2 ½ hours after the injection. This allows time for the radiotracer to concentrate in the bone. If you wish, you can leave the hospital during this time. You will be asked to hydrate yourself by drinking at least 24 to 32 ounces of liquid.

Upon return, images of the whole body will be taken. This will take about 30-40 minutes.

Bone Scan with SPECT Images

A small amount of radiotracer will be injected into a vein.

You will be asked to return 2 ½ hours after the injection. This allows time for the radiotracer to concentrate in the bone. If you wish, you can leave the hospital during this time. You will be asked to hydrate yourself by drinking at least 24 to 32 ounces of liquid.

Upon return, images of the affected area will be taken. This will take about 45-60 minutes.

Parking/Registration:

Park in the Mercy Medical Center 10th Street Parking Ramp, located at the corner of 10th Street and 8th Ave. SE. You will be pre-registered, so you can proceed to **Ground (G)** level and follow the signs to “Radiology (X-Ray),” also located on Ground (G) level.

Procedure Results (Who interprets the results):

A radiologist will review the images shortly after the exam is completed. A written report will be sent to your doctor. Your doctor will discuss the results with you. Please allow your physician time to review these results, usually 2 business days after the exam.

Your appointment date and time:

Procedure date: _____

Procedure time: _____(Please arrive 15 minutes early)

Revised: February 2010
CPT Code: 78306, 78300
78315, 78320