



Patient & Family Guide
2018

Kidney Scan

Aussi disponible en français :
Scintigraphie rénale (FF85-1959)



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Kidney Scan

A kidney scan is done in the Nuclear Medicine Department. A radioactive material (radioisotope) is given. A gamma camera is then used to take pictures of your kidneys. You will have to lie still for these pictures but you will not feel any discomfort.

Getting ready

It is **very important** that you tell us if you:

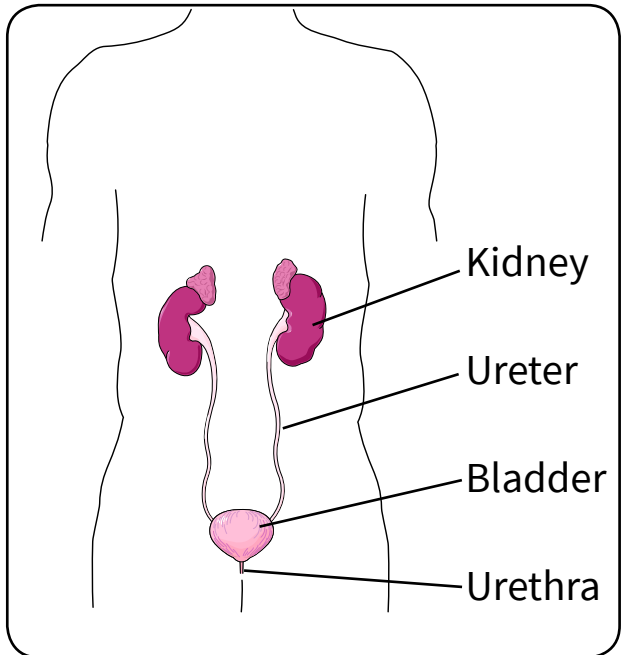
- › may be pregnant
- › are breastfeeding
- › have had any recent nuclear medicine studies
- You may need to stop taking certain medications for a short time before the test. Your doctor will tell you if you need to do this.
- One hour before the test, drink at least 2 big glasses of water.
- If the test is being done for high blood pressure, a medication is sometimes given 1 hour before the test.

What to wear and bring

- Wear warm comfortable clothing without buttons or zippers.
- Wear footwear that is easy to get on and off.
- Leave all jewelry at home.
- Empty your pockets.
- Bring a warm sweater without buttons or zippers in case it is cold.

How is the test done?

- A small needle will be used to inject the radioisotope into a vein in your arm.
- Right after the injection, pictures will be taken of the blood flow to your kidneys.
- The test will take about 30 minutes. The nuclear medicine doctor might ask for special pictures that could take 30 more minutes.



- Sometimes the technologist will give you a medication to help clear the radioisotope from your kidneys. **The technologist will then take pictures for another 30 minutes.**

Will the radiation hurt me?

No. The dosage of the radioisotope is so low that it will not be harmful to you.

If you are not able to come to your appointment, please leave a message at 902-473-1595 so another patient can be booked in your time slot.

Looking for more health information?

Find this pamphlet and all our patient resources here: <http://library.nshealth.ca/PatientGuides>

Contact your local public library for books, videos, magazines, and other resources.

For more information, go to <http://library.novascotia.ca>

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time: call 811 or visit <https://811.novascotia.ca>

Learn about other programs and services in your community: call 211 or visit <http://ns.211.ca>

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The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years or as needed.