

Hepatobiliary Scan

What is a Hepatobiliary Scan (HIDA)?

A HIDA scan is an imaging study that takes pictures of your child's gallbladder, liver, and bowel. It is performed in the Nuclear Medicine department and uses a special kind of camera called a gamma camera. This camera **does not** give off radiation. We do the study by using a medicine called a "tracer". This medicine contains a small amount of radioactive material. It travels through your child's bloodstream to the area we need to see so the gamma camera can take pictures.

These tracer medicines (called radiopharmaceuticals) are carefully tested. Side effects are rare and give low radiation exposure. <http://snmmi.files.cms-plus.com/Patients/Nuclear%20Medicine%20and%20Radiation%20Safety%20Factsheet.pdf>

Why is this exam performed?

A HIDA scan is used to diagnose problems with the gallbladder and the ducts connecting the gallbladder to the liver and the small bowel.

What to expect

Since your child will be awake for the exam, one parent or guardian may be with the child in the exam room. It may be helpful to make arrangements for other siblings. For safety reasons, you will be asked to step out of the exam room if there is a chance you could be pregnant.

Preparing your child is key to the success of this study. To help prepare your child, our Child Life Specialists will help ease your child's fear and anxiety.

Please let a staff member know if you are interested in a Child Life consultation at no additional cost.

Your child cannot have morphine or morphine-derived medications for six hours prior to the scan. He or she **should not** have anything to eat or drink for six hours prior to the scan *unless* your child has biliary atresia.

Your child and the accompanying adult will be taken to the procedure room by a technologist and asked to change into a gown. The technologist will ask why the study is being done and explain it to your child.

For this 60-120 minute exam:

- An intravenous line, also known as an IV, is used to give the tracer and additional medications. An IV is a tiny tube that is used to give the body medicine. Your child might feel a pinch or a poke when it goes in the vein, however, we have ways to manage the pain.
- To make sure your child is safe and can hold still for the test, we use "seatbelts" to help. Seatbelts can be Velcro straps, swaddle blankets, or tape straps. They can be quickly removed in the event of an emergency.
- The Nuclear Medicine Technologist will inject the tracer using the IV line.
- Your child will lie on his/her back on the exam table, beneath the gamma camera. The table will move slowly under the camera during the exam. Although the camera will be close, it will not touch your child.
- After viewing the first pictures taken, the Nuclear Medicine Radiologist may want to take more. More images may need to be taken up to four hours later; sometimes 24 hours later.

- The imaging will take approximately 60 to 120 minutes. Your child will need to hold still for this entire period.
- If your child’s physician ordered a HIDA scan with CCK (cholecystokinin, a hormone produced in the body), CCK would be administered if the images above show a normal flow through the ducts.
 - A dose of CCK will be given to your child through the IV over a 30 minute period. This will cause the gallbladder to contract. Images will be taken during the induction and will continue to be taken for about 30 minutes following the completion of the CCK dose. This will allow us to measure the rate at which the gallbladder empties and determine if this rate is normal.
 - If CCK is not available, a high-fat meal will be used to stimulate gallbladder contractions. High Fat Boost Plus is used. Imaging times are the same as described in the point above.
- We have television in all the exam rooms. You can also bring a tablet with your child’s favorite movies.
- You will be provided discharge instructions at the conclusion of your appointment.

Receiving your Hepatobiliary Scan results

Call your doctor for a follow up appointment as instructed. You can also call the doctor who ordered the study for the results 24 to 48 hours after the test. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to call Radiology Nursing at 832-826-5371.

If you would like a CD of your child’s study, please call the film library at 832-822-1202. The Radiologist’s report will also be included on the CD.