Bone Scan

A bone scan is a test to check for bone problems or diseases. A very small amount of radioactive medicine, called tracer or contrast, is used to show your bones in more detail than your doctor would see from x-rays.

This test has 2 parts. **Arrive on time for each part of the test.**

Arrive for the first part of the test at ____ am / pm on __________________.

Staff will tell you when to come back to the testing area for the second part of the test.

**If you have any allergies** to medicines, foods or other things, tell the staff before the test.

**If you are breastfeeding, pregnant or think you might be**, tell the staff before the test.

**To Prepare**

- Do not take any medicine with bismuth, such as Pepto-Bismol, for 4 days before this test.
- You should not have any x-ray tests using barium for 4 days before your bone scan.
- Remove any jewelry, piercings or other metal objects before your test.
- You may be asked to change into a hospital gown.

**During the Test**

**Part 1:**

An IV (intravenous) is put in a vein in your arm. The tracer is put into your IV. Based on the reason for your test, you may have a scan done soon after getting the tracer, or you may wait for about 3 hours before the scan is done.

You lie on a table during the scan, and it will take about an hour. Lie flat and hold still as each scan is done. Each scan takes about 1 hour.

**Part 2:**

About 3 hours later, you will have a scan of your whole body. You lie on a table during the scan. This takes about 1 hour.

**After the Test**

- Drink plenty of water or other liquids the day of and the day after your test. This helps your body clear out the tracer medicine.
- The radioactivity is gone from your body after 2 to 3 days.
- Test results are sent to your doctor. Your doctor will share the results with you.

**Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.**