

Nuclear Medicine Patient Information

Bone Scan

Welcome to VCU Health Nuclear Medicine. We are located in the Gateway Building, 2nd floor, 1200 East Marshall Street. Our hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7 am to 5 pm. Advanced scheduling is required for all nuclear medicine exams. Please review the following information about your test. Please call (804) 828-6828 to schedule your test or if you have any questions about your nuclear medicine exam.

What is it?

Imaging of bones throughout your body.

Why are you having this test?

If you have unexplained bone pain, a bone scan may help determine the cause. Images from bone scans can reveal bone abnormalities related to these conditions:

- Fractures
- Cancer originating in bone
- Cancer that has spread (metastasized) to bone from a different primary site
- Infection of the joints, joint replacements or bones (osteomyelitis)
- Impaired blood supply to bones or death of bone tissue (avascular necrosis)
- Paget's disease of bone

Preparing for the test

- You may eat and drink and take your medications as ordered by your physician.
- Bring a picture ID and insurance information.
- Bring with you a current list of medications (including over the counter, herbal, vitamins, supplements, etc.) and current allergies.

- Please arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment.

What to expect during the test

- The test will take between 3 – 4 hours.
- A radioactive tracer is injected through a vein.
- Depending on the type of exam, images are taken at varying time intervals. Your technologist performing the test will let you know what time intervals will be used for your test.
- You may go on with normal activities in between scans (eat and drink as normal).
- The scan takes about 1 hour. You will lie down while the camera takes scans of your bones from head to toe and from different views.
- The images will be checked for quality by our physician and more pictures may be needed.

After Care Information

- You may return to all your normal activities.
- Most of the radioactive tracer leaves your body through your urine. Drinking extra fluids may help the tracer leave your body faster.

Contact information if questions or concerns

- Any questions: please contact us at (804) 828-6828 and ask to speak to a Nuclear Medicine Technologist. After hours, please call (804) 828-3699.

Follow-Up Care after the procedure

- Results will be available in 1-2 business days.
- For results: please contact the physician that ordered your test