HIDA Hepatobiliary 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 the Liver and Gallbladder.

Why are you having this test?
A HIDA scan may help in the diagnosis of several diseases and conditions, such as:
- Gallbladder inflammation (cholecystitis)
- Bile duct obstruction
- Congenital abnormalities in the bile ducts, such as biliary atresia
- Postoperative complications, such as bile leaks and fistulas
- Assessment of liver transplant
- Your doctor may use a HIDA scan as part of a test to measure the rate at which bile is released from your gallbladder (gallbladder ejection fraction)

Preparing for the test
- DO NOT eat or drink anything 6 hours prior to your test.
- Take your medications as prescribed, EXCEPT for pain medication/narcotics; Please contact the Nuclear Medicine Department at (804) 828-6828 for instructions.
- 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 2 - 3 hours.
- A needle (IV) will be placed in a vein (intravenous catheter). A radioactive tracer, with/without medication will be administered through the IV.
- Depending on the type of exam, imaging times will vary.
- You will lie down while the camera takes pictures of your liver and gallbladder (this may be up to 2 hours).

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.