

If there is a chance you could be pregnant, please tell the tech.

Renal Imaging with Lasix®: Nuclear Medicine

A renal scan shows the size, shape and function of your kidneys. If kidney function is decreased, a 2nd step is added to the renal scan to check how the kidneys respond to a diuretic or “water pill.” The Lasix® portion of the test measures this response. Your total test time is about 2½ hours. The amount of radiation used in this test is small and well within limits that are not harmful.

Before the Test

There is no preparation for this test.

On the day of the test, plan to arrive 15 minutes before your test time. Be sure to bring:

- Your doctor’s written order for the test if one was given to you.
- A list of allergies.
- A list of all your current medications (prescription, over-the-counter, and herbals).
- Photo ID.
- Medical insurance information.
- Medicare card (Medicare patients only).

Please come to the 8th floor reception desk in the Galter Pavilion, 201 East Huron Street.

Parking is available for patients and visitors in the garage at 222 East Huron Street, across from the Feinberg and Galter Pavilions. For discounted rates, please bring your parking ticket with you. Tickets can be validated at the Customer Services Desks on the 1st, 2nd and 8th floors of the Feinberg and Galter Pavilions; 1st floor of Prentice (including the Prentice 24-hour desk near the Superior entrance).

During the Test

When you arrive in the Nuclear Medicine department, a nurse or technologist (tech) will ask you questions about your medical history. If you think you might be pregnant or are breastfeeding, please tell the tech before you are given any injection.

You will lie on an imaging table and a radioactive tracer will be injected through an IV (into the vein) line. A special camera will detect the flow of the tracer to your kidneys. Pictures of your kidneys and bladder are taken for 30 minutes. At the end of this time, the tech will ask you to empty your bladder and another picture of your kidneys is taken.

The tech will check your pictures with a doctor. Then, a doctor, nurse or tech will give you Lasix® IV. Pictures of your kidneys and bladder are repeated for another 30 minutes. The tech will then ask you to empty your bladder again.

Another picture of your kidneys and bladder will be taken as you stand in front of the camera.

After the Test

You may resume your normal activities and diet. The IV tracer you were given is not harmful and becomes non-radioactive within hours. The Lasix® injection may cause frequent urination for a couple of hours after the test. Talk with your doctor about your test results. You may obtain a copy of your results from Medical Records. Medical Records is located on the 2nd floor of the Galter Pavilion.

If you have any questions about this test, please call the Nuclear Medicine department at 312-926-2320, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Health Information Resources

For more information, visit Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Alberto Culver Health Learning Center. This state-of-the-art health library is located on the 3rd floor of the Galter Pavilion. Health information professionals are available to help you find the information you need and provide you with personalized support at no charge. You may contact the Health Learning Center by calling 312-926-LINK (5465) or by sending an e-mail to hlc@nm.org.

For additional information about Northwestern Medicine, please visit our website at nm.org.

Para asistencia en español, por favor llamar al Departamento de Representantes para Pacientes al 312-926-3112.

The entities that come together as Northwestern Medicine are committed to representing the communities we serve, fostering a culture of inclusion, delivering culturally competent care, providing access to treatment and programs in a nondiscriminatory manner and eliminating healthcare disparities. For questions, please call either Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Patient Representatives Department at 312-926-3112, TDD/TTY 312-944-2358 and/or the Northwestern Medical Group Patient Representatives Department at 312-926-1920, TDD/TTY 312-695-3661.

Developed by: Department of Nuclear Medicine

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For additional information about Northwestern Medicine, please visit our website at nm.org.
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