

Renal Imaging with Lasix®: Nuclear Medicine

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

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.
- A list of allergies.
- A list of all your current medications (prescription, over-the-counter, and herbals).
- Medical insurance information.
- Medicare card (Medicare patients only).

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

Parking is available for patients and visitors in the garage at 222 E. Huron, 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 and 2nd floor 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 will ask you questions about your medical history. If you think you might be pregnant or are breastfeeding, please tell the technologist (tech).

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 or nurse will give you Lasix[®] IV. Pictures of your kidneys and bladder are repeated for another 30 minutes. The tech again will ask you to empty your bladder.

Another picture of your kidneys and bladder will be taken as you stand in front of the camera. A doctor will review your renal scan before you leave.

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. The test results are sent to your doctor within 5 days of the exam.

If you have any questions about this test, please call the Nuclear Medicine department at 312-926-2514, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Health Information Resources

For more information, visit one of Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Health Learning Centers. These state-of-the-art health libraries are located on the third floor of the Galter Pavilion and on the first floor of the Prentice Women's Hospital. 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 Centers by calling 312-926-LINK (5465) or by sending an e-mail to hlc@nmh.org.

For additional information about Northwestern Memorial Hospital, please visit our Web site at www.nmh.org.

Para asistencia en español, por favor llamar a el departamento de representantes para pacientes al 312-926-3112.

Northwestern Memorial is an equal opportunity employer that welcomes, respects and serves with dignity all people and does not discriminate, including in hiring, or employment, or admission, or access to, or treatment in its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, religion, disability, handicap, age, Vietnam or other veteran status, sexual orientation or any other status protected by relevant law. To arrange for TDD/TTY, auxiliary aids and foreign language interpretation services, call the Patient Representative department at 312-926-3112, TDD number 312-926-6363. Issues related to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 should be directed to the director of Employee Relations or designee at 312-926-7297.

Developed by: Department of Nuclear Medicine

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For more information about Northwestern Memorial Hospital, please visit www.nmh.org.
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