

## Hepatobiliary Scan

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

A hepatobiliary scan is a test that shows your liver function using a radioactive tracer. It finds problems such as:

- Gallstones
- Bile leak
- Blockages in the flow of bile from the gall bladder to the liver

The amount of radiation used in this test is small and well within limits that are not harmful to you. The test is done in the Nuclear Medicine Department and lasts about 3 to 6 hours. The total test time depends on why the test was ordered. The test may involve more than 1 appointment. You may be asked to return the next day for about 30 minutes to finish the test.

### Before the test

#### ***The night before the test***

Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before your test.

#### ***12 hours before the test***

Do not take any pain medicine 12 hours before the test.

On the day of the test, please come to the 8th floor Reception Desk in Galter Pavilion, 201 East Huron Street, at your scheduled appointment time. Be sure to bring:

- Your physician's written order for the test if you received one
- A list of allergies
- A list of all your current medications (prescription, over-the-counter and herbal)
- Photo ID
- Medical insurance information
- Medicare card (Medicare patients only)

Parking is available for patients and visitors in the garage at 222 East Huron Street, across from Feinberg and Galter pavilions. For a discounted rate, please bring your parking ticket with you. Your ticket can be validated at the Customer Services Desk on the 1st, 2nd or 8th floor of Feinberg and Galter pavilions, and the 1st floor of Prentice Women's Hospital.

### During the test

When you arrive in to 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 the start of the test and before you are given an injection.*

The tech will ask you to lie on an imaging table. A radioactive tracer will be injected through an IV (intravenous) line into a vein in your arm or hand. The tech then will position a camera over your stomach, and pictures will be taken for 1 hour. At the end of the first hour, 2 more pictures will be taken from different angles.

A physician will review the pictures and, in most cases, ask that extra pictures be taken to get more detailed information. More pictures may be taken at 2, 4, 6 and 24 hours after the injection. At each of these time periods, 3 pictures may be taken. Every set of pictures will be reviewed by a physician. The tech will tell you if more pictures are needed and if you are to return to the Nuclear Medicine Department.

### **After the test**

You may resume your normal activities and diet after the test. The radioactive tracer you were given is not harmful and becomes nonradioactive within hours.

Talk with your physician about your test results. You may obtain a copy of your test results about a week after the test from the Medical Records Department, which is located on the 2nd floor of Galter Pavilion.

If you have any questions about this test, please call the Nuclear Medicine Department at 312.926.2320, TTY 312.926.6363, Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 5:00 pm.