

# Renal Scan

## What is it?

A renal scan looks at kidney blood flow and function. It can give information that cannot be obtained by other tests such as Ultrasound and X-rays.

## What do I need to do before the procedure?

Make sure you remember to bring any previous films or reports to the appointment. Wear warm comfortable clothing. You will also need to:

- **Fast** - If you are having a Captopril Renal Scan, you will need to fast for four hours before your scan. The radiology service will let you know if you are having this type of renal scan.
- **Medications** - take your medications as normal. If you are having a Captopril renal scan, ask your GP if you need to stop any of your normal medications before the scan.
- **Advise of pregnancy or breastfeeding** - let the service know if you are pregnant or breastfeeding
- **Advise of any allergies** - let the service know if you have any allergies, in particular to sulphur-containing medications. Some patients may be given a medication called Frusemide. This is a safe medication but very rarely it may cause an allergic reaction.

## What will happen?

If you are having a Captopril Renal Scan, you will be given a medication called Captopril one hour before the test. This is a commonly medication to treat high blood pressure. Occasionally it may cause your blood pressure to fall, so you will be monitored in the Department after this has been given to you.

At the start of the scan, you will be asked to drink three to four glasses of water and then go to the toilet. A small injection of a radioactive tracer will be given into a vein in your arm. Pictures of your kidneys will be taken for about 45 minutes. During the scan you will need to lie very still and breathe normally.

For some types of renal scan, you may be given a small injection of a medication called Frusemide. This makes your kidneys produce more urine. Further pictures will be taken for 20 minutes.

If you are havign a Captopril Renal Scan, you may be asked to come back on another day to repeat the test without the Captopril medication.

## What can I expect after?

There are no after-effects from having a renal scan. The small dose of radiation in the injection is about the same as you would get from a back X-ray.

Once it is finished, you can go home. You are able to drive immediately after the test. Your results will be sent to your GP or specialist.

## Where can I learn more?

- **Healthline** - renal scan: [healthline.com](http://healthline.com)

*Adapted from Liverpool Hospital Department of Nuclear Medicine and PET*

This information is to be viewed by so meone who has received a diagnosis from their doctor. It is not designed to be used to diagnose a condition or as a substitute for ongoing medical care

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