PATIENT INFORMATION: Biliary Function Scan

How does a Biliary scan work?

The aim of this study is to image the function of the biliary tract and the gallbladder over time. We do this by injecting a small amount of radiotracer that has been bound to a compound that the liver naturally absorbs from the blood to produce bile.

Why am I having a Biliary scan?

To assess biliary flow, cystic duct patency and gallbladder ejection fraction.

What happens when I have a Biliary scan?

You will be taken into a scanning room and you will lie on a bed with the gamma camera above and underneath the table. A small amount of radiotracer will be injected into your vein through a cannula. Scanning will commence immediately after the injection of tracer and will continue for about 60 minutes. You will then be asked to go to the toilet. The images are then processed and reviewed by the Doctor in Nuclear Medicine. Sometimes additional images are necessary.

Are there any side effects?

No. You will receive a small amount of radiation from the radiotracer that is well within safety limits.

How long will this test take?

Allow 90 minutes from when you first arrive.

What are the preparations that I need to take?

Fast for at least 4 hours prior to the scan. You may drink water during this time. Advise the staff if you are taking any sort pain relief medications.

Are there any restrictions during or after the scan?

Yes. You should not nurse a small child from the time that you receive the injection until 12 hours you have completed the study.

If you are breast feeding, pregnant or think that you might be pregnant, please tell the staff BEFORE the first injection.

What should I do following the test?

We ask that you:

1. Keep yourself well hydrated for the next 24 hours. A substantial amount of the Tc99m injection will pass out through your urine.
2. Keep your distance from pregnant woman or children.
3. If you are seeing your doctor or any other health professional immediately after your scan please notify them that you are still a source of radiation.
4. We ask that you do not schedule any other appointments for yourself for the rest of the day.