

Bone Scan

A bone scan is a test to check for bone problems or diseases. A very small amount of radioactive medicine, called tracer or contrast, is used to show your bones in more detail than your doctor would see from x-rays.

This test has 2 parts. **Arrive on time for each part of the test.**

Arrive for the first part of the test at _____ am / pm on _____.

Staff will tell you when to come back to the testing area for the second part of the test.

If you have any allergies to medicines, foods or other things, tell the staff before the test.

If you are breastfeeding, pregnant or think you might be, tell the staff before the test.

To Prepare

- Do not take any medicine with bismuth, such as Pepto-Bismol, for 4 days before this test.
- You should not have any x-ray tests using barium for 4 days before your bone scan.
- Remove any jewelry, piercings or other metal objects before your test.
- You may be asked to change into a hospital gown.

During the Test

Part 1:

An IV (intravenous) is put in a vein in your arm. The tracer is put into your IV. Based on the reason for your test, you may have a scan done soon after getting the tracer, or you may wait for about 3 hours before the scan is done.

You lie on a table during the scan, and it will take about an hour. Lie flat and hold still as each scan is done. Each scan takes about 1 hour.

Part 2:

About 3 hours later, you will have a scan of your whole body. You lie on a table during the scan. This takes about 1 hour.

After the Test

- Drink plenty of water or other liquids the day of and the day after your test. This helps your body clear out the tracer medicine.
- The radioactivity is gone from your body after 2 to 3 days.
- Test results are sent to your doctor. Your doctor will share the results with you.

Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.