

What is a Nuclear Medicine Lacrimal Scan?

A Nuclear Medicine Lacrimal Scan is a test that is used to show how well tears are drained away from the eyes.

If you have any questions, our staff can answer these before we start the scan.

How do I prepare for the scan?

There is no preparation for this scan.

Please call us on (04) 806 2913 if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

What happens during the scan?

We will put one small drop of a radioactive tracer into each eye. It will not sting your eyes or affect your eyesight. The tracer allows us to take pictures of your tear ducts.

We will start taking pictures straight after the drops have been put in.

Is it Safe?

Yes, there are no associated side effects to the radioactive drops.

The eye drops will not change your vision, so you will be able to drive after the examination.

The amount of radioactive material given for the scan is small.

For children having this scan, the radiation dose is so low that there is no need for any special precautions.

The radioactive tracer disappears naturally by a process called decay.

How long does it take?

Please allow up to one hour.

Results

The Nuclear Medicine Radiologist will evaluate the results of your scan and send a report to your doctor. The results are usually available approximately two weeks following the scan.

Contact us

Phone: (04) 806 2193

Hours: 8am-4pm, Monday to Friday

Fax: (04) 385 5590

Email: radiology.admin@ccdhb.org.nz