

What is a Nuclear Medicine GFR Renal scan?

GFR stands for glomerular filtration rate and it is a measure of how well your kidneys are filtering your blood. This scan is done to look at your kidney function and to accurately calculate your GFR using blood samples after the scan.

This scan can be done before and during chemotherapy to make sure it is not damaging your kidneys.

To look at the kidneys, we use a radioactive dye (tracer) injected into the blood stream.

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

How do I prepare for the scan?

We ask you to drink two glasses of water on the morning prior to your appointment.

When you arrive at our department, you will need to drink another two glasses of water.

Avoid drinks containing caffeine such as tea, coffee, cola and energy drinks from 10 pm the night before your test, as these may dehydrate you and affect our results.

Take your regular medication as normal.

Please call us on (04) 806 2193 if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Children under 15 years of age will have an IV cannula (needle) put in by the staff at the Children's Outpatients Department. Our Nuclear Medicine Administration team will discuss this with you.

What happens during the scan?

An IV cannula (needle) will be set up in a vein in your arm.

We will position you on our scan table, lying on your back. We then give you an injection of the radioactive tracer and the pictures start straight away. The scan takes 30 minutes.

We will take four of blood samples from your other arm every hour from 2 until 5 hours after your injection. You may leave the department between blood samples and can eat and drink in this time.

Is it Safe?

Yes, there are no associated side effects.

The amount of radioactive material given for the scan is extremely small. You will not need to take any precautions after the scan.

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

The radioactivity disappears naturally by a process of decay.

Results

The Nuclear Medicine Physician will evaluate the results of your scan and send a report to your doctor.

Contact us

Phone: (04) 806 2193

Hours: 8am-4pm, Monday to Friday

Email: radiology.admin@ccdhb.org.nz