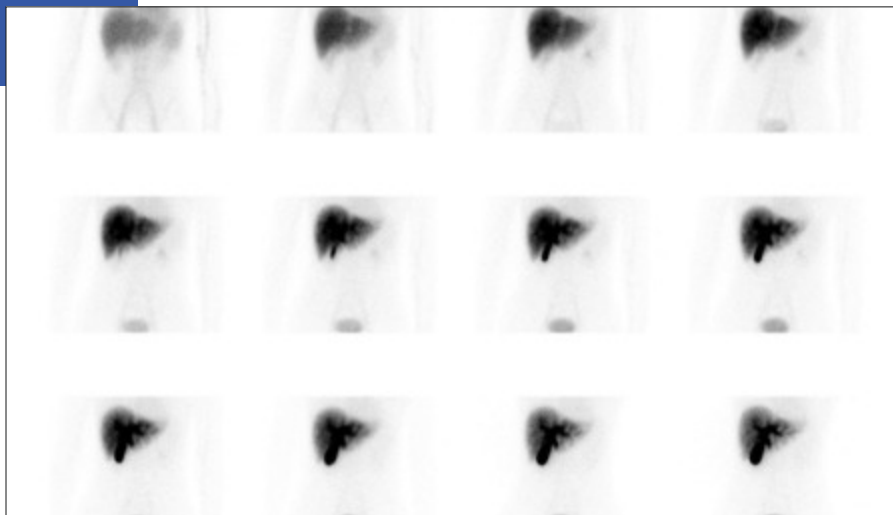




Understanding HIDA Scan (Hepatobiliary Scan)

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What is a HIDA Scan (Hepatobiliary Scan)?

HIDA scans are used to assess hepatocellular function and the production/flow of bile through the biliary system. A set amount of radioactive substance (radiotracer) is injected into the patient. After the tracer goes through the liver and biliary system, a gamma camera is used to assess liver and biliary function.

Why is it Performed?

A HIDA may be requested to help determine if the gallbladder is working properly and the flow of bile into the intestine is normal, or if problems in the liver/bile are suspected. It can assist the physician in determining if there is a blockage or inflammation in the bile duct or any other abnormalities of the hepatobiliary system. Results are analysed and compared to all other investigations, medical history, and the patient's clinical features.

Preparation

- Follow the fasting instructions provided before the scan.
- Inform the team if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.
- Inform the team about current medicines and medical conditions.
- Carry previous imaging, laboratory reports, and relevant medical records.
- Follow any specific medication instructions provided by the medical team.

Procedure

The radiotracer goes into the bloodstream through an injection into a vein. As the radioactive tracer passes through the liver, gallbladder, and bile ducts, a camera will make images of you while you lie on the imaging table. Additional images may be obtained at specific intervals according to the imaging protocol. During imaging, it is important to remain still to get clear images. This procedure time can be variable according to the procedure requirements.

Important Instructions

- Follow the recommended fasting period before the scan.
- Remain still during imaging.
- Inform staff if you feel uncomfortable.
- Follow any hydration or medication instructions provided.
- Follow all post-scan instructions given by the medical team.

Safety Precautions

The HIDA Scan process includes the injection of radiotracer at a safe dosage and under the watchful eye of a trained medical professional. A brief pinprick or mild discomfort may occur during IV insertion. Before the procedure, educate the team on diseases, medications, allergies, and/or other medical conditions that may impact the safety of the procedure if the woman is pregnant, nursing, on medication, or has an allergy or other medical condition.

When to Seek Medical Attention?

Tell your health care provider if you have any unusual symptoms after the procedure or if you have any concerns. Ask the medical team if you have any questions about how you are preparing, what medicines you are taking, or matters regarding your pregnancy or breastfeeding. The HIDA scan is a special type of nuclear medicine test. HIDA scan findings should be interpreted together with the patient's clinical information and other relevant test results. Molecular Diagnostics and Therapy support and inform along the way.