

Nuclear Medicine 3-Phase Bone Scan

Exam Information

Diagnostic Imaging

What is a Nuclear Medicine 3-Phase Bone Scan exam?

A small amount of radioactive material (no side effects) will be injected. A special camera is used to image the skeletal system. It is used to diagnose bone problems such as arthritis, stress fractures, and trauma.

How is the exam performed?

A small amount of radioactive material will be injected into an arm vein while you are lying on your back under the camera. Different angled views will be taken. **You will then be instructed to leave and to come back 2 ½ to 3 hours after you were injected for more pictures.** There are no restrictions during this period, you may leave the hospital and the technologist will give you a time to return. You will be asked to drink plenty of fluids and empty your bladder often during this waiting period. After this time, more pictures will be taken over the area of concern. A camera will be positioned very close to your body during the pictures.

How should I prepare for the exam?

- Bring a current list of your medications
- Try to wear clothing without metal
- The first set of pictures will take about 30 minutes
- The second set of pictures will take about 45 minutes

What will I feel during the exam?

There are no adverse reactions to this exam. Patients may resume normal activity after the exam.

Who interprets the exam and when will I get my results?

After the exam, a radiologist will review your study and send a written report to the ordering physician. That physician will then contact you with your results.

Exam scheduling

(218)249-5593

St. Luke's

(218)249-5555

Diagnostic Imaging

(218)249-5222

www.slhduluth.com/hospital/imaging/