NUCLEAR MEDICINE
KIDNEY SCAN

OVERVIEW: A nuclear medicine procedure is sometimes described as an “inside-out” x-ray, because it records radiation emitting from the patient’s body, rather than radiation that is directed through the patient’s body. Nuclear medicine procedures use small amounts of radioactive materials, called radiopharmaceuticals, to create images of anatomy. Radiopharmaceuticals are substances that are attracted to specific organs, bones or tissues. They are introduced into the patient’s body by injection, swallowing or inhalation. As the radiopharmaceutical travels through the body, it produces radioactive emissions. A special type of camera detects these emissions in the organ, bone or tissue being imaged and then records the information on a computer screen and on film.

KIDNEY SCAN: This study is done for renal cortical defects in patients who have had chronic urinary tract infections.

PREP: There is no prep for this study other than making sure you are well hydrated.

PROCEDURE: You will receive an IV injection of Tc-99m/DMSA. Planar imaging begins approximately two hours later. SPECT imaging may be required at the radiologist’s discretion. Imaging lasts 20 minutes to 1 hour.

RESULTS: These images will be reviewed by a radiologist and your ordering physician will contact you with the results in approximately 3 days. Your physician will advise you of the results and discuss what further procedures, if any, are needed.