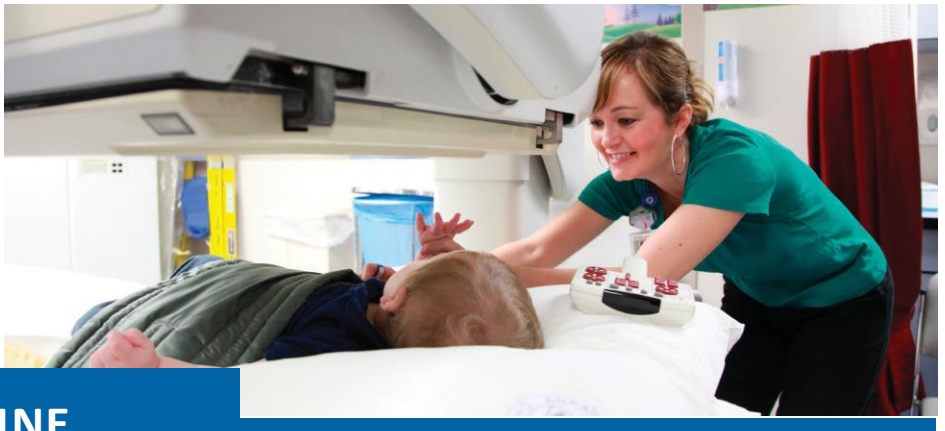




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NUCLEAR MEDICINE

What is Nuclear Medicine?

Nuclear Medicine uses a special camera to take pictures after a special medicine called a radioisotope or tracer is given to the patient. The tracer goes to the tissue or body part that needs to be imaged. The tracers are given in different ways, either by IV injection or by mouth (if child has G-Tube it may be given through the tube).

How are the pictures taken?

- After the tracer is given, images are taken using the camera.
- Your child will lie down on a special table. The camera comes close to, but does not touch your child.
- Pictures are taken at different intervals or times depending on the type of study.
- Your child will need to lie very still for the test.
- Sedation (medicine that helps your child sleep for the test) may be given if your child cannot be still.
- On average most exams take 2-4 hours but will vary depending on the type of study.

Who performs the test?

A licensed nuclear medicine technologist will give the medicine and take the pictures.

How do I get the results?

- A pediatric radiologist, a doctor specially trained in reading children's x-rays, will review the pictures and send a report to your child's doctor.
- Your results will also be available in MyChart within 72 hours. Please see our front desk to sign up for MyChart.

Are there any risks?

- At Arkansas Children's we take many steps to order to lower the radiation dose to your child.
- Radiation in general is a risk; however the amount of radiation in the isotope used is based on your child's size and weight. Therefore, the smallest amount possible is given to acquire the best pictures so that it poses no great risk.
- If your child receives sedation, the risks will be discussed with you before your child receives it and you will be asked to give permission (sign consent).

What happens after the test?

- The technologist will give you any special instructions and let you know when you can leave.
- After the test, your child may eat as usual; unless your child's doctor tells you not to give them anything or he/she is scheduled for another test in which they should not eat.

NOTE: You may stay with your child during the test; however, brothers, sisters and pregnant mothers are not allowed in the exam room. If anesthesia is used, parents will not be allowed to stay in the room.

Because the radiation from this test could possibly harm an unborn child, female patients age 10 and above will be required to take a pregnancy questionnaire or test before the exam can be performed.



**Arkansas
Children's**

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NUCLEAR MEDICINE BONE SCAN



PREPARING MY CHILD

We will contact you if any special instructions are needed such as if your child can eat before the study.

Infants

You can help your baby feel more secure during the test if you:

- Bring a special blanket, toy or pacifier.
- Comfort them with your presence and voice.
- Bring along a bottle of juice, formula or breast milk to give after the test is done.

Toddlers and children

- On the day of the test, tell your child that he/she will be having some “pictures” taken, so the doctor can help them feel better.
- Use simple words and be honest.
- Bring a favorite book, DVD, toy or blanket with you to the hospital.
- Bring a snack for after the test.

Photographs/Videos

The privacy of our patients and staff is important to us. No photographs or videos are allowed. Please turn off your cell phone before entering the x-ray exam room. Thank you for respecting the privacy of others.

PATIENT NAME: _____

APPOINTMENT DATE: _____ TIME: _____

PATIENT PREPARATION/SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: _____

Nuclear Medicine Department at Arkansas Children's Hospital

(501)364-1180 • Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room right away. This is general information and is not specific medical advice for your child. Always consult your child's doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions or concerns about the care or health of your child.