

What to expect from your HIDA Scan

A HIDA scan is an imaging procedure that helps track the production and flow of bile from your liver to your small intestine. Bile is a fluid that helps your digestive system break down fats in the foods you eat.

A HIDA scan stands for Hepatobiliary Iminodiacetic Acid Scan. This scan creates pictures of your liver, gallbladder, bile ducts and small intestine. This scan is a type of imaging study called nuclear medicine. This means the HIDA scan uses a radioactive chemical, or tracer, that helps highlight certain organs on the scan.

This scan is performed in the DRH Radiology Department.

On the day of your exam:

You will be asked to have nothing to eat or drink at least 8 hours prior to the testing.

You will change into a hospital gown.

You will then be placed on a table.

The medication is then injected into a vein in your arm.

This medication containing the tracer will travel through your bloodstream to your liver where it will be taken up by the bile-producing cells. The tracers travel with the bile from your liver, into your gallbladder and through your bile ducts to your small intestine.

You may feel some pressure.

As you lie on the table, a special camera passes back and forth over your abdomen taking pictures of the tracer. This camera takes pictures continuously for about 1 hour.

You will need to keep still during this scan.

DRH hospital does supply a television set for you to watch while this test is being conducted. They also provide a DVD machine so that a movie can be watched for your convenience, you will need to bring your own movie.

This scan will last at least 1 full hour.

Dr. Albertson will receive a written report from DRH radiology department once the testing and calculations are complete. You will then be notified of these results.