

Bone Scan

Patient Instructions

What It Is

A **bone scan** is a test that uses a small amount of radioactive material (tracer) to look at the bones in your body. There are no side effects from the tracer.

The bone scan has two parts: the **tracer injection** and the **scan**.

1. The **tracer injection** takes 10-15 minutes. After the tracer injection, you must wait approximately three hours while the tracer settles in your bones.
2. The **scan** takes 35-45 minutes. No preparation is required prior to the bone scan.

How to Prepare

- You must arrive in Nuclear Medicine **THREE (3) HOURS** before your appointment time for an injection required for the scanning procedure.
- There is no other advance preparation required for this procedure.

Pregnant Women and New Mothers

- Generally, bone scans are NOT performed on pregnant women. If you are pregnant or think you could be pregnant, discuss this with your physician.
- If you are breastfeeding, you should not breastfeed for **48 hours** after the scan. Nursing mothers should pump and store milk before being injected with the radioactive tracer.

After the Scan

- For **24 hours** after your scan, minimize the amount of time you are in close contact with children and with pregnant or potentially pregnant women.
- Drink plenty of fluids and empty your bladder frequently after the scan.

How to Find Us

Nuclear Medicine is located on level **L2** of the Dana building. To get to Nuclear Medicine from Dana-Farber's parking garage or any floor of the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care, please use one of these route options.

A. From level P2 of the parking garage:

1. Walk through the **Tomsich Family Gallery** (gene display) to reach the **Dana building**.
2. Turn left after the Tomsich Family Gallery to find the **Nuclear Medicine** reception desk.

B. From the 3rd floor of the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care:

1. Cross the **PMC Bridge** to reach the **Dana building**.
2. Take a **Dana building elevator** down to level **L2**, where you'll find the **Nuclear Medicine** reception desk.

For driving directions to Dana-Farber, visit www.dana-farber.org/directions or call **617-632-3400**.

Questions?

If you have any questions, call Nuclear Medicine at **617-632-3223**.