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 30-45 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.
- Please try to avoid wearing metal (jewelry, belts, etc.), otherwise these items will need to be removed prior to the scan.

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

Longwood Campus (Boston)
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.

Chestnut Hill Campus (Newton)
Nuclear Medicine is located on the 3rd floor. Enter the parking garage on Boylston Street and park on level P3. Take the Boylston elevators to the 3rd floor and check in at the desk.

For driving directions to Dana-Farber, visit www.dana-farber.org/directions or call 617-632-3400.
Questions?
A staff member will call you to review these instructions and answer any questions about 1-3 days before your scan. If you need to reschedule your appointment, call Nuclear Medicine at 617-632-3223.