

## Renogram Exam

### *How to prepare and what to expect*

*A renogram is a nuclear medicine exam that studies the kidneys and how they work. This handout explains how to prepare for the exam, how it works, what you may feel during the exam, and how to get your results.*

### What is a renogram exam?

A renogram exam studies your kidneys and shows how well they are working. It is a nuclear medicine exam that uses a radioactive *tracer* to detect and treat disease. It is a form of radiology because radiation is used to take pictures of your body.

### How does the exam work?

You will be given a small dose of a tracer through an *intravenous* (IV) line that has been placed into a vein in your arm. The tracer will give off *gamma rays* as it moves through your kidneys and into your bladder. A *gamma camera* detects the rays and sends images and measurements to a computer. The computer will make detailed pictures of your kidneys.

### How do I prepare?

- *Women:* Tell your provider if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

### On Exam Day

- Drink at least 24 to 36 ounces of water 1 to 2 hours before the exam. You must be well hydrated.
- If you are a woman of childbearing age, **before** the tracer is injected:
  - Tell the technologist if there is **any** chance you may be pregnant.
  - We will ask if you are breastfeeding.
  - We will again confirm that there is no chance you are pregnant.



*A gamma camera*

## How is the exam done?

- The tracer is injected through an IV. Right after the injection, the camera begins taking pictures.
- About 15 minutes after the injection, you may receive a dose of Lasix. Lasix is a *diuretic* (water pill) that will make you need to urinate often. It can also cause constipation (slow bowels).
- The exam takes 45 minutes. While the pictures are being taken, you must hold very still.
- After 40 minutes, you will take a break and go to the bathroom to urinate. When you return, the gamma camera will take another picture. Taking this picture will take 2 minutes.
- After the exam, a doctor with special training in nuclear medicine will check the quality of the pictures. If needed, we may ask to take more pictures.
- Keep drinking water after the exam to keep your bowels moving and avoid getting dehydrated.

## What will I feel during the exam?

- You may feel a little discomfort from the IV.
- Lying still on the exam table may be hard for some people.

## What happens to the radioactive tracer?

Drink plenty of water for 24 hours after your scan to help your body get rid of the tracer. Most of it will leave your body in your urine or stool within 1 day. The rest will go away over time.

## Who interprets the results and how do I get them?

When the exam is over, the nuclear medicine doctor will review your pictures, prepare a written report, and talk with your provider about the results. Your provider will then talk with you about the results.

You may also read your results on your MyChart page. If you need copies of your images on disc, call 206.598.6206.

You and your provider will then decide the next step, such as treatment for a problem, as needed.

### Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns.

- UWMC - Montlake  
Nuclear Medicine/Imaging  
Services: 206.598.6200
- Harborview Imaging  
Services: 206.744.3105
- UWMC - Northwest  
Imaging Services:  
206.598.4240