Procedure Information: Bone Scan

What is a bone scan?
A nuclear medicine technique for creating images of bones on a computer screen or on film.

When are bone scans ordered?
- Detection of primary and metastatic bone tumors
- Follow up therapy of bone tumors
- Detection of stress fractures or occult fractures (e.g. battered children, athletes in pain)
- Detection of aseptic necrosis/osteonecrosis
- Early detection of infections (osteomyelitis or septic arthritis)
- Evaluation of joint replacement (hips, knees) devices to detect loosening or infection
- Detection of metabolic disease such as Paget's disease and evaluation of its extent
- Evaluation of spondylysis
- Evaluation of Bone Pain, including low back pain
- Evaluation of RSD (REFLEX SYMPATHETIC DYSTROPHY)

Patient Preparation
There are no dietary restrictions. Patients can eat before being tested. Patients are urged to drink fluids between the time of injection and the time of scan. It is permissible to continue taking your medications. They will not interfere with the bone scan. If pain medication is prescribed we encourage you to take the medication 30 minutes before the start of your bone scan. It is suggested to wear comfortable clothing. One of our technologist will have you remove any metal (belt, keys, coins), otherwise you can wear your clothing for the scan.

Length of Procedure
- Upon arrival you will be registered by our office staff. Timeframe: 10 minutes
- A certified nuclear medicine technologist will explain the procedure and administer the isotope by injection. Timeframe: 10 minutes
- Depending on the reason for the test immediate images may be taken. Timeframe: 15-20 minutes
After your injection you can leave but will be asked to return in 3 hours. You are free to do whatever you like. We will encourage you to drink extra fluids

Three hours later the bone scan is performed by a certified nuclear medicine technologist. Timeframe 1 hour
If indicated 3 dimensional (SPECT)images may be performed: Timeframe 30 minutes
A typical bone scan procedure including the injection and scan is 1.5 hours