



Pullman Regional Hospital Nuclear Medicine Department

What are Bone Scans?

Total body bone scan - This scan evaluates metastatic disease (the spread of cancer to other parts of the body), child abuse, inflammatory arthritis, or other studies in which a suspicious site is not known.

Limited bone scan - If a site of suspicion is known a total body bone scan is not needed. This scan includes only the body part of interest.

Three-phase bone scans – This scan is ordered for prosthetic loosening, Osteomyelitis or if infection is suspected.

Before your scan

There is no preparation needed for the bone scan imaging.

Please register at the Outpatient Services desk.

During your scan

For a total body bone scan and limited bone scan, an intravenous (IV) will be started in your arm, and a Radioactive tracer will be injected into the IV. The IV will be removed and you will be asked to return in 3-5 hours for your imaging.

For three-phase bone scans, an intravenous (IV) will be started in your arm, and a Radioactive tracer will be injected into the IV while you are under the Gamma Camera and the first set of images are being taken. Your IV will be removed and you will be asked to return 3-5 hours later for delayed images.

After your scan

You can resume your regular activities with no restrictions. The technologist will not be able to give you any results; however, the results should be available to the doctor who ordered your test within one to two business days.

Thank you

We are honored that you have chosen Pullman Regional Hospital to serve your healthcare needs.