Adrenal MIBG Scan

About the test

This scan helps in the diagnosis and locating of adrenal gland tumors. The adrenal glands are located on top of each kidney and produce hormones such as sex hormones and cortisol.

The scan uses a liquid radioactive material called iodine-123-meta-iodobenzylguanidine, or MIBG. The material used to do this scan contains a very small amount of radioactivity so you will have very low exposure.

If you are breastfeeding, pregnant, or think you might be, tell the radiologist or technologist before the scan.

During the test

You will have 3 to 5 appointments for this scan.

1st appointment – about a week before your scan starts

• This is your screening appointment and will take about 30 minutes. The scan will be explained to you and you will get your instructions.
• You will meet with a pharmacist to talk about any medicines you are taking. Tell the pharmacist and the technologist if you are allergic to iodine.
• Bring a list of all the medicines you are taking, including any prescription or over the counter medicines, vitamins, or herbs.
• You will be given a potassium iodide pill that you will take 1 hour before your second appointment. This blocks the radioactivity from going to your thyroid gland.
• Please ask if you have any questions or if you do not understand the instructions.

2nd appointment – your injection

• This visit will take about 30 minutes.
• You will be injected with a radioactive material through a vein in your arm.
• You will get instructions for doing a bowel prep to clean your lower bowel and colon. This allows better views of your organs.

3rd appointment – first scan, 24 hours after your injection

• This visit could last up to 2 hours.
• You will have total body scan, close up views of your kidney area, and a possible SPECT scan. SPECT stands for single photon emission computed tomography, which rotates around you to create a 3D image.
Another visit 48 hours after your injection may be needed for another scan. The technologist will let you know if you need to come back for this.

4th appointment, if needed – 48 hours after your injection
- This visit could last up to 2 hours and is just like the 3rd appointment.
- Another visit 72 hours after your injection may be needed for another scan. The technologist will let you know if you need to come back for this.

5th appointment, if needed – 72 hours after your injection
- This visit could last up to 2 hours and is just like the 3rd and 4th appointment.

An adrenal MIBG scan is an important test. Please ask your doctor or technologist if you have any questions.

Your test dates and location

Your 1st appointment is scheduled at ___________________ on ________________.
Your 2nd appointment is scheduled at ___________________ on ________________.
Your 3rd appointment is scheduled at ___________________ on ________________.
Your 4th appointment is scheduled at ___________________ on ________________.
Your 5th appointment is scheduled at ___________________ on ________________.

Your test will be done at:
- University Hospital, 410 W. 10th Avenue, Columbus OH 43210
  Doan Hall, 2nd floor, Nuclear Medicine, Room 211
  Take the Doan Hall elevators to the 2nd floor. Report to Radiology Registration to the right of the elevators.
  - If you need to change your appointment, call Radiology Scheduling at 614-293-4333.
  - If you have a question about your test, please call Nuclear Medicine at 614-293-5774.