Renal Scans

This test is done to check the structure, blood flow and function of your kidneys. Renal scans may be used to check for a blockage or narrowing in blood vessels, or if there are differences in the function between the left and right kidney.

Let the technologist know if you have been told to limit your fluids. You will need to drink an amount of water in the hour before having one of these tests.

A renal scan is done in the Department Nuclear Medicine. You will get an injection through a needle put into a vein in your arm. This medicine has a radioactive isotope or tracer. A special camera detects the radioactivity so that images of the kidneys structure and function can be taken.

Bring a list of your current medicines to the testing location.
You may be told to drink a specific amount of liquids before the test.
Ask the technologist about when you may empty your bladder during these renal scans.

Types of Renal Scans

- **Lasix Renal Scan**: This scan requires a second injection. This will add another 45 minutes to the total time for the renal scan.

- **Glomerular Filtration Rate Renal Scan (GFR)**: This scan shows how blood flow to the kidneys and compares how the right and left kidney, or a transplanted kidney is working. This is called the GFR value.
Renal Captopril/ACE Inhibition Renal Scan: This scan looks for renal artery stenosis or a narrowing or blockage in the renal artery. You may be given the Captopril orally or through an IV. Then the radioactive tracer will be given. If you are to have this test, you need to be off your ACE inhibitor medicines, such as Lisinopril (Prinivil or Zestril) or Enalopril (Vasotec), for at least 24 hours before the scan. To learn more, read the handout on Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme (ACE) Inhibitors.

Your Visit
Your appointment is scheduled at _____ (time) on______________ (date).

Please go to:
- University Hospital, Nuclear Medicine, 211 East Doan Hall, 410 West 10th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210. Take the Doan Hall elevators to the 2nd floor. Report to Radiology Registration to the right of the elevators.
  - If you have to change your visit, call Radiology Scheduling at (614) 293-4333.
  - For questions about the scan, call Nuclear Medicine at (614) 293-5774.
- University Hospital East, 1492 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43205. Please stop at Main Registration on the first floor of the tower. This is near the main hospital entrance.
  - If you have to change your visit, call Scheduling at (614) 257-2222.
  - For questions about the scan, call Nuclear Medicine at (614) 257-3670.

Talk to your doctor or others on your health care team if you have questions. You may request more written information from the Library for Health Information at (614) 293-3707 or email: health-info@osu.edu.