What is a Gallium Scan?

A Gallium Scan is used to detect and assess the extent of any infections in the body, as well as certain types of cancer such as Hodgkin’s and Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, and Sarcoidosis.

What preparation is required?

There is no preparation for this test – you do not need to fast, or skip any medications. Some of the tracer leaves the body by the bowels and bladder, so we recommend a high-fibre diet and plenty of fluids over the weekend to help clear it out of your system.

What happens during the test?

There are two parts to every Gallium Scan.

PART 1: You will be given a small injection of a radioactive tracer, into a vein in your arm.

WAIT: There is a 3 day waiting period for the tracer to be absorbed

PART 2: During the second part of the test we will image your whole body, as well as 3D images of specific areas.

Are there any side effects?

There are no side effects from the tracer injection, and no restrictions following the test. You will be able to continue with your usual daily activities. The amount of radiation used is relatively small, however we suggest you limit contact with small children and pregnant women for 4-5 days after your injection.

How long will the test take?

Please allow up to 30min for the injection, and around 90min for the imaging. You are not required to stay in the hospital between the two parts.
Can I have this test while I am pregnant or breast feeding?

It is not recommended that you undergo a Gallium scan whilst you are pregnant or breastfeeding. It is advisable for women that are considering this test while breast feeding wait until they have ceased breast feeding before proceeding with this test.

Further information may be obtained from the staff member performing your scan.

If you are / could be pregnant OR are breast-feeding please call us to discuss your options

It is important to bring any previous test results and your Medicare card with you

Please feel free to call us on 6244 2439 if you have any questions or to reschedule