

PATIENT INFORMATION

Patient's Name: _____

You have an appointment in the Nuclear Medicine Department on:

Date: _____ **Time:** _____

Please arrive 10 minutes early. This gives you time to check in. Please bring with you photo identification and your BC CareCard (personal health number).

Please do not bring your children with you unless you bring someone to care for them while you are having the test.

If you are not able to keep your appointment, please call **604-806-8008** as soon as possible. Please give us at least 24 hours notice so we can use your time for someone else. When you call, we will give you another date and time for your test.

Things you need to know

Why am I having this test?

Your doctor wants to check for blockages in your gallbladder and bile ducts by such things as gallstones or infection. If there is a blockage, it can cause symptoms such as cramping and pain in the upper-right of the abdomen (stomach area).

What do I need to do before the test?

★ Are you allergic to latex? Pregnant? Breastfeeding? Please tell us★

You must not eat or drink anything for the 4 hours before the test. Make sure you eat something before that time. The period of time that you do not eat or drink anything should not be more than 12 hours.

- If you are taking regular medicine(s) directed by your doctor and need to take it during these 4 hours, take your medicine(s) with a small amount of water.
- If you are diabetic and your test is booked for the morning, eat a small meal at or before 6:00 am then nothing to eat or drink after that. If your test is booked for the afternoon, do not eat or drink anything after 9:00 am.

How long does the test take? The test takes about 2 hours to complete.

What happens during the test?

The technologist explains the test to you before we start.

In order to see your gallbladder and liver clearly, we need to give you a radioactive material called 'tracer' into your blood stream. To do this, we use a needle to insert a small flexible

tube into a vein in one of your hands or arms. We inject the tracer into the vein. This is called an intravenous injection (*intra* meaning 'into' and *venous* meaning 'vein', commonly called an IV). We remove the intravenous once we finish injecting the tracer.

Once injected, the tracer travels through your bloodstream and is absorbed into your gallbladder and liver. It will not make you feel any different.

You lie on an exam bed for about 2 hours while we take pictures or images of the tracer moving through your liver and gallbladder. Please let us know if you need to use the toilet during this time. You can use the toilet anytime between the times when we need to take the images.

When the gallbladder is full of the tracer, we may inject a hormone called 'CCK' (cholecystokinin). This hormone makes the gallbladder squeeze out its bile. This helps us see how well the bile empties out of your gallbladder. You may feel stomach cramps or nausea, but it should pass in a few minutes.

What can I expect after my test?

Some people feel mild cramping in the upper right part of abdomen from the CCK hormone. This feels the same as when they have eaten a fatty meal and can occur up to several hours after the test. It goes away after an hour or so.

We send your test results to your doctor within 5 working days after the test is completed. If your doctor does not have your results within two weeks, please ask your doctor to contact us.

If you are planning to travel within 72 hours of this test, please tell the Nuclear Medicine receptionist. We will give you a letter that says you have been given a small amount of radioactivity for this test.