

# HIDA/DISIDA/Hepatobiliary Scan

## What to expect at arrival:

Please arrive 30 minutes prior to the appointment. The first place to go after arriving is admissions. The physician's office should have provided a written order to the patient. Please take the order to admissions for registration. After checking in, the next stop will be the Radiology desk. The exam should start quickly from the scheduled time. Since Northeast Georgia is a major medical center there are emergencies that could arise that might extend wait time. Please try to be patient and be assured that we will begin your procedure as quickly as possible.

## What is Nuclear Medicine?

Nuclear Medicine is a radiology modality that uses radiopharmaceuticals to image the body's anatomy and physiology. The images are obtained after an intravenous injection or an oral administration of the radioactive pharmaceutical. Depending on the study, the images can take 20 to 30 minutes or could take a few hours or multiple days, depending on the study. The radiation from the pharmaceuticals is minimal.

## Patient Prep:

The patient is to be NPO (nothing by mouth) for six hours prior to the exam or if it is a morning exam NPO after midnight. Do not take any pain medication for six hours prior to the exam. **Please let the technologist know if there is any possibility that you may be pregnant.**

## Your HIDA Scan:

When you are brought to the Nuclear Medicine department, a technologist will verify the orders and patient identification. A technologist will ask a series of questions and explain the procedure. There will be a small intravenous injection of a radioactive tracer that localizes to the liver and gallbladder, enabling the technologist to acquire images. The injection has no known side effects. The images will take about an hour and a half and could take up to four hours in rare cases. One hour into the exam the patient will drink a protein shake or meal replacement shake similar to Ensure. The drink has nothing added to it and is used to see how the gallbladder is working after having a meal. The camera does not release any radiation and is nearly silent while taking the pictures over the abdomen.

## Recovery/Home:

There are no restrictions after the exam. Continue normal activity. The radiologist will interpret the exam and send the results to your physician's office.

**Patient Information**



Northeast Georgia Health System • Imaging Services • [www.nghs.com/Imaging](http://www.nghs.com/Imaging)

Imaging Center Gainesville  
770-219-8035

Imaging Center Braselton  
770-848-6150

NGMC Main Campus  
770-219-1300