Nuclear Medicine Renal Scans, Renal Flow Scan, Diuretic (Lasix) Renal Scan

Test date: _____

Test time:_____

This test is done at University Hospital in the Nuclear Medicine section of Radiology. Go in the clinic entrance. Go right on Main Street to Atrium Way and follow this to the atrium elevators. Go up to the 3rd floor and follow the signs to Radiology.

Renal Scan
A renal scan checks blood flow to your kidneys and how well your kidneys work. It can also check for blocked ureters. The ureters are tubes that carry urine from your kidneys to your bladder. This test can find problems that keep urine from reaching your bladder.

Before the Test
Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breast-feeding. This test should not be done during pregnancy or breast-feeding except in special cases.

Drink 32 ounces of water or juice within 2 hours before your test.

Based on your health history, you may need a urinary catheter before the scan starts.

During the Test
You will empty your bladder right before the scan. A staff member will help you lie on an exam table and place an IV.

When the scan starts, we will inject a small amount of a radioactive substance through your IV. Allergic reactions are rare.

Lie still and breathe as you normally would. A camera will take pictures as the radioactive substance moves through your kidneys and into your bladder.

After about 20 minutes, you may get Lasix through your IV. Lasix causes your bladder to fill fast and makes you need to urinate. We will keep taking pictures for about 20 more minutes.

You will then urinate into a container so we can measure the amount. After you urinate, we will take more pictures for 5-10 minutes. The whole test takes about 1-2 hours.

After the Test
The test itself is painless, but you will have an IV for the radioactive substance and Lasix, if needed.

Lasix may make you feel a strong need to urinate. Try to wait to urinate for as long as staff ask so they can take the pictures they need.

Risks
The substance used for this test is radioactive. The amount used is very small, so there should be no side effects. Tell your doctor before the test if you are pregnant or breast-feeding.

Who to Call
If you have questions, please contact your provider through MyChart or call your provider listed in your After Visit Summary or After Hospital Care Plan. For a list of UW Health Clinics, visit http://www.uwhealth.org.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 10/2026 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#7240.