

Hunter Health

**Imaging
Service**

NUCLEAR MEDICINE MAG III SCAN

A nuclear medicine MAG III scan is a test used to measure the function of the kidneys. It involves the injection of a small amount of radioactive tracer into a vein. The amount of radioactivity your child receives is based on both the weight and age of the child. The injection will be given by an experienced nuclear medicine technologist or doctor.

Before the injection, your child lies on the scanning bed. A camera is positioned under the bed. We take pictures as soon as the injection happens. Your child needs to remain still for the 20 minutes needed to take good pictures. We use videos and toys to help distract children during this time, so if your child has a favourite toy or video please bring it along.

Further images are sometimes necessary. These can be up 2 hours after the first pictures are taken. Sometimes your child is given another drug (Lasix), which helps to clear the radiation out of the kidneys. Pictures are then taken for another 20 minutes. Lasix may cause your child to want to wee. These pictures can help decide if your child has a blockage within the urine system.

It is best that your child has had something to drink before coming to our department for the test. The child's clothing should be free of metal clips or buttons as these can interfere with the pictures.