

## GALLIUM SCANS

### **What is it used for?**

A gallium scan can be used to detect the source of infection that may be causing abnormal fevers. They can also be used to identify abscesses, infections in the bones (osteomyelitis), or to diagnose pulmonary fibrosis or sarcoidosis, as well as certain types of cancers such as lymphomas.

### **What is involved?**

There are two parts to every Gallium Scan. During your first appointment, you will get an injection of radiotracer in your arm. There will be a 24-72 hour waiting period before your next appointment to allow the radiotracer to be absorbed. The gallium will naturally concentrate in areas where there is inflammation or where white blood cells have collected. It can take several days for the gallium to build up, which is why the second part of the scan is done a few days later. During your second appointment, your whole body will be imaged to identify any areas of infection, which will present as areas of high radiotracer uptake.

### **How should I prepare?**

There is no preparation required for Gallium. If pictures of your tummy are needed, your doctor may provide you with laxative tablets before the scan. This helps to make the pictures clearer. You will also be given advice about when to take them if you need them. Like all nuclear medicine scans at TeleMed, these Scans are bulk billed and so it is important that you bring your Medicare card with you on the day.