

## HEPATOBILIARY SCANS

### **What are they used for?**

A HIDA scan, also known as Cholescintigraphy, is a test used to diagnose obstruction of the bile ducts (for example, by a gallstone or a tumour), disease of the gallbladder, and bile leaks. It is also used to identify cholecystitis and abnormal connections between different organs.

### **What is involved?**

The radiotracer injected in your arm (called 'HIDA') is filtered from your bloodstream by your liver, and then passes into your gallbladder. The first set of images detects this flow and takes about 45 minutes. You are then treated to a chocolate bar and glass of milk to bring your gallbladder into action. The radiotracer will then be pushed out of your gallbladder when your body detects the fatty food in your stomach. If your gallbladder is blocked or not functioning normally, this natural process is interrupted, which will be identified in the imaged. If the gallbladder is not visualized within 1 hour after the injection, this may indicate cholecystitis or a cystic duct obstruction, such as by a gallstone. In total, the procedure usually takes 1.5 hours.

Your doctor may order a HIDA scan with CCK (cholecystokinin), a hormone that causes your gallbladder to empty and release bile. If this is the case, the imaging technician will give you this medication by mouth or through a vein. They will take images of your gallbladder before and after giving you CCK.

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

You are required to fast for 4 hours before you come in for the scan. You are allowed to have sips of water. It is also important that you cease any opiate medications such as codeine, oxycodone, oxycontin or morphine for 12 hours before the scan. If you have had an X-ray using barium contrast or are taking medication containing bismuth, such as Pepto-Bismol, you should let your doctor know. Both barium and bismuth can impact the outcome of the test. Like all nuclear medicine scans at TeleMed, HIDA Scans are bulk billed and so it is important that you bring your Medicare card with you on the day.