

# Gallium Scan

**Gallium scans can be used to detect areas of inflammation or infection in bone or soft tissue. They can also be useful in patients with cancer to help see exactly where the cancer is located.**

## What Happens?

Patient Information

The test is performed over a few days.

**Day 1:** You will be given a small injection of the 'gallium tracer' into a vein in your arm.

**Day 2:** It is necessary to wait 24 - 48 hours after the injection before the scan can be done.

**Day 3:** A scan of your whole body or a specific area will be taken.

**Day 4 -7:** Occasionally it will be necessary to do a delayed scan of the abdomen area. (This is required if there is gallium tracer in the bowel that is obscuring the pictures.)



**YES!**

Bring any relevant X-rays or previous scans.



**YES!**

You may eat and drink normally prior to and during the test.



**YES!**

You may keep taking any medications that you have been prescribed.



**NO!**

You will not experience any side effects from the injection.

**Please inform the doctor or the technologist if you think you may be pregnant or if you are breast feeding.**



**What happens for the scan?**


This is one of the Gamma Cameras at Wollongong Nuclear Medicine. The scan must be done with the camera close to your body but you **DO NOT go through a 'tunnel'**. You will **not be required to undress** for the scan.



**How long will it take?**

A scan of one specific area  
**Approximately 30 minutes.**

A scan of the whole body  
**Approximately 60 minutes.**

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