What you should know about your **DMSA RENAL SCAN**.

**Purpose:**
Nuclear medicine uses small amounts of radioactive material to diagnose and sometimes treat disease. Nuclear medicine procedures, called scans, provide images that show how organs and tissues work. A DMSA renal scan helps physicians evaluate the anatomy and physiology of the kidneys. This exam helps diagnose conditions such as pyelonephritis (a type of urinary tract infection that affects the kidneys), trauma, multicystic renal dysplasia and infarct.

**Preparation:**
- None

**Procedure: What to Expect**
- Please bring a copy of your doctor’s order with you the day of your exam.
- We will verify your name, date of birth and exam you will be having done.
- We will take a brief medical history.
- You will have an IV started in a vein in your arm.
- You will lie down for your exam with a camera above and below you. You will be made as comfortable as possible and asked to lie still during the exam.
- Just before imaging photos are taken, you will be given an injection, through your IV, of a radioactive material to help visualize your kidneys.
- There are no reactions or side effects to this injection.
- Initial images of your kidneys will be taken. These images will take approximately 15-20 minutes.
- You will be asked to return two hours later for delay pictures.
- You may eat and drink during this time. There are no restrictions during your waiting period.
- Your delay images will take approx 60 to 90 minutes.
- During the delay images a camera will be rotating slowly around your kidneys. You will again be instructed to lie still.

**After the Test:**
- No reactions or special precautions.
- Your exam will be evaluated by a radiologist and the report will be sent to your physician.

**Risks and Benefits:**
Nuclear medicine carries about the same risk as a common x-ray. Only small amounts of radioactive material are used and this material is quickly eliminated from the body. Side effects to nuclear medicine procedures are very rare. Nuclear medicine is generally not recommended for women who are pregnant or breastfeeding.

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