

Lasix Renal Scan

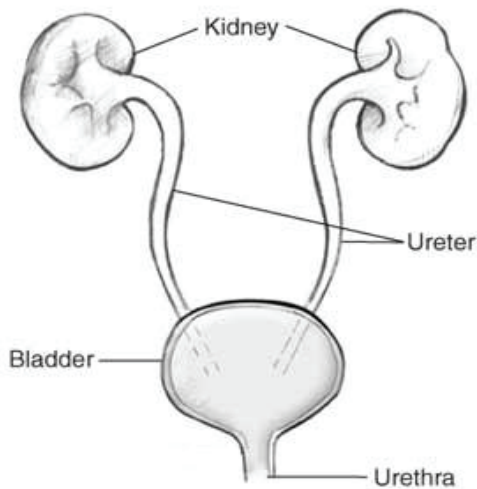
What is a Lasix Renal Scan?

Note: Child-friendly language in **green**.

- A Lasix Renal Scan, nuclear medicine study of your child's urinary system—the kidneys, the bladder and the ureters (tubes connecting the kidneys to the bladder).
- In nuclear medicine studies, patients are given a very small amount of radioisotopes (**picture medicine**), which travel to the part of the body the doctors want to see.
- These tracers are used by a large gamma camera to create pictures of your child's urinary system.



Patient with Nuclear Medicine Technologist



Why is it done?


- This procedure will show how your child's urinary system is working.

What can I do to help my child?

- Parents/caregivers are strongly encouraged to stay with their child throughout the entire procedure whenever possible. You are the most important thing to your child. Your presence and reassurance will help them feel more safe and secure.



Patient lying on Camera Bed with a trusted adult close by.



What should I expect during the procedure?

The entire test takes about 1-2.5 hours and is done in three stages. Results will be sent to your doctor in 1-2 business days.

Stage 1: IV Placement

- For a Lasix Renal Scan, your child will be given an injection of a small amount of radioisotope (picture medicine) through a vein.
- First, your child will change into a hospital gown and lie down on the camera bed. A the nurse or technologist (person who helps take the pictures) will then look for the best area to place an IV (a tiny, soft straw placed into a vein using a small needle) and clean this area with a cool sponge.
 - * Infants and other young children may be wrapped in blankets to help them stay still during the injection and/or pictures.
 - * Let your child know that his or her job is to hold their arm very still.
- The IV will then be gently placed in your child's arm or hand, and secured with tape.
 - * Your child may feel a little discomfort, like a small quick poke, when the needle is placed.
 - * Counting, singing a favorite song and/or taking deep breaths can help make this part easier.

Stage 2: Catheter Placement

- The nurse or the radiologist will then use cotton balls and betadine (brown soap) to wash the area where your child urinates (pees).
 - * Some kids say this part feels cold and wet.
 - * Girls will be asked to make "frog legs" (feet together, knees apart while lying down) to help the nurse see the area to be cleaned. Practicing making "frog legs" at home can help make this part easier.
- Then, the nurse or the radiologist will gently insert the catheter (tiny, soft tube) into your child's urethra (the opening where your child's pee comes out) and into the bladder.
 - * Your child may feel a sense of pressure and/or the urge to urinate.
 - * Encourage your child to take deep breaths to help make this part easier and quicker.

Stage 3: Pictures

- The technologist will then inject the radioactive isotope through your child's IV.
 - * Most kids say they do not feel the fluid going through their IV. Other fluids will also run through the IV to help keep your child hydrated during the exam.
- The camera will then be positioned beneath the camera bed and the pictures will start. Your child will need to hold still while lying on his or her back throughout the scan (up to 2 hours).
 - * Reassure your child that the big camera will not touch or hurt them.
 - * Portable movie players and DVDs are available for your child to watch.
- In the middle of the scan, the technologist may administer Lasix, a diuretic medicine to increase urine flow, through your child's IV.
- Later, you may be asked to hold your child upright for fifteen minutes, followed by some additional pictures.
- After all of the pictures are taken, the technologist will gently slide out the IV and catheter.

Tips for preparing your child for a Lasix Renal Scan



Infants (0-12 months old):

- Remember you are the most important thing to your child. Your presence will help them feel as safe and secure as possible.
- Take care of yourself too. If you are prepared mentally and physically, you will be more relaxed around your child.
- Bring familiar objects that comfort your child such as a favorite blanket, toy or pacifier.
- Remember that children use many different ways to cope. Crying is a healthy and normal way for children to cope because it allows them to express their emotions.

Toddlers (1-3 years old):

- Begin preparing your child the day before.
- Let your child know that he or she will have special pictures taken, so the doctor can learn about his or her body.
- Let your child know that a nurse or doctor will be touching the area where they go pee, and that it is okay.
- Use simple words to describe what your child may experience.
- Reassure your child that you will be close.
- Bring comfort items with you that help your child feel safe, such as a favorite toy or blanket.
- Toddlers are learning to be independent and make their own choices; offer them realistic choices. For example, “What stuffed animal should we bring?”

Preschoolers (3-5 years old):

- Begin preparing your child about 1-3 days in advance.
- Talk to your child about why they are having pictures taken. For example, “The doctor wants to take special pictures of the part inside your body that helps you go to the bathroom.”
- Let your child know that he or she will be getting special medicine, which helps the camera take really good pictures.
- Talk about ways to make the tough parts easier such as pretending to blow out birthday candles, looking away, counting or singing.
- Tell your child that it is his or her big job to hold still so that the pictures don’t turn out blurry.

School Age and Up (6 years old and Up):

- Prepare your child at least a few days in advance.
- Talk to your child about why the doctor wants to take special pictures of inside his or her body. For example, for younger children, “So the doctor can learn more about how your body works.” For older children, “So the doctor can see how your kidneys, bladder and ureters are working.”
- Explain to your child what he or she might see, hear and feel, in the order things will occur, using child-friendly and/or real terms depending on your child’s age and preference.
- Talk to your child about different ways to cope. Some children like to know everything that is happening during the exam, and some want to direct their attention elsewhere. Remind them that either way is okay.
- Encourage your child/teen to ask questions.



Radiology Nursing Staff

My questions for the Radiology staff ...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Child Life

Children's National Medical Center Department of Radiology is staffed with two full-time Child Life Specialists at Children's National Medical Center Main Campus. Child Life Specialists are trained to address the emotional and developmental needs of children and their families during healthcare experiences, and can provide procedural preparation and support before and during your child's exam.

Phone Numbers

- If you would like to speak to a Child Life Specialist before your child's Radiology appointment at Children's National Medical Center Main Campus, please call **202-476-3338**.
- For more information about hospital-wide Child Life Services at Children's National Medical Center, please call **202-476-3070**.

Children's National Medical Center supports the Image Gently campaign and strives to keep radiation exposure to our patients as low as possible. For more information on this campaign, please visit www.imagegently.org