

I-123 MIBG Scan



What is an I-123 MIBG scan?

An I-123 MIBG scan is a test that identifies and shows where certain types of cancer are. It is often used to identify a kind of cancer called neuroblastoma.

A tracer (radiopharmaceutical) will be injected into one of your child's veins. It will be injected through a small, thin tube (IV catheter) or the existing port. The imaging portion of the test takes place 24 hours after the injection.

How do I prepare my child for the test?

All children must have SSKI drops for this test. SSKI drops provide iodine that protects your child's thyroid from the medicine we inject during the scan. The doctor who ordered the test for your child will give you a prescription and instructions for the SSKI drops. You can fill the prescription at any pharmacy.

Dress your child comfortably in clothes that can be easily removed. Sweats are a good choice.

We have videos your child can watch, or they can bring their favorite video or DVD from home to watch during the test.

If your child needs anesthesia, you will receive more instructions from the nurse practitioner the day before the scan.

To Learn More

- Radiology
206-987-2133
- Ask your child's healthcare provider
- www.seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your child's nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.
- For Deaf and hard of hearing callers 206-987-2280 (TTY)

How do we check in for the appointment?

Arrive 30 minutes before your scheduled appointment. Being late can affect other appointments and can delay your appointment.

Check in at the 4th floor registration desk inside the Whale entrance. After you complete registration, you will be directed to the Radiology reception area.

Upon arrival, females 12 years and older will be required to provide a urine sample for pregnancy screening.

If you will be late or have questions about testing, please call Radiology at 206-987-2133.

What happens during the MIBG scan?

The technologist will explain the test to you and your child. A technologist or nurse will place an IV in your child for the tracer injection. Your child will only feel a little discomfort, like a mild pinch.

The technologist will inject the tracer and ask you to return in 24 hours for the scan.

Your child will lie on an exam table for the scan. A camera will be above and below the table. It will come close to your child but will not touch your child. The scan takes about 1 hour. Your child will have to lie still during the imaging portion of the test.

SPECT imaging (single photon emission computed tomography) is often done during this test. SPECT provides a 3-D image to the doctors. It takes an additional 30 minutes.

Anesthesia may be used for patients 5 years and under, and for those unable to hold still.

You can stay with your child in the exam room, unless your child is under anesthesia. Please make other arrangements for siblings.

What happens after the scan?

Continue to give your child the SSKI drops as prescribed.

The images from your child's test are reviewed within 24 hours and a report will be sent to the doctor who ordered the test.

Seattle Children's offers interpreter services for Deaf, hard of hearing or non-English speaking patients, family members and legal representatives free of charge. Seattle Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Call the Family Resource Center at 206-987-2201.

This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Seattle Children's. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's healthcare provider.

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