

- You will be able to sit next to your child during the test. Your child will be able to watch a movie during the test. (Many movies are available for your child, or you can bring a DVD from home.)
- Once all of the pictures are done, the nuclear medicine tech will take out your child's IV and tube (catheter). Your child then will be able to go home.

### How Can I Help My Child?

- Explain to your child why the test is needed and what will happen during the test. Use simple words that are familiar between you and your child.
- Be honest with your child about the test.
- Have your child practice holding still at home before the test.
- Bring comforting things that your child enjoys from home, such as a favorite toy, blanket, book, DVD movie, etc.
- Talk or play with your child throughout the exam. For example, play "I Spy," read books, tell stories, listen to music or play with toys. Some toys are available in the exam room.
- Ask your child to take deep breaths. Practice deep breathing at home before the test by pretending to blow bubbles or blow out candles on a birthday cake. Deep breathing can help your child's body relax to make it easier to place and remove the catheter.
- Praise and support your child during the test. (Say, "Good job holding still," and acknowledge his or her feelings.)
- Ask questions. Make sure you have all the information you need to be prepared and to best support your child.

### Glossary

**Bladder:** a part of the body that collects urine.

**Catheter:** a thin, flexible (soft) tube.

**Intravenous line (IV):** a small tube that gives the body liquids and medicines.

**Isotope:** a radioactive element that releases energy, which our special cameras can see outside the body.

**Nuclear medicine tech:** a person who takes pictures of the body.

**Tracer:** a special liquid mixture that has added isotopes. The tracer goes through an IV into the vein and the bloodstream. Depending on the tracer used, it goes to different places in the body, such as the bone, liver, heart or kidneys. The special cameras take pictures of where the tracer shows up in the body.

**Urethra:** a part of the body that connects the bladder to the outside of the body.

**If you would like a Child Life Specialist to talk to your child about the test or give support, call 323-361-7675.**

### References:

Children's Hospital Los Angeles CC-197.0 Peripheral IV's (PIV), Insertion, Assessment, and Discontinuation

Caffey's Pediatric Diagnostic Imaging, Eleventh Edition, 2008, Thomas L. Slovis, Renal Scan Volume 1, p. 179

Children's Hospital Los Angeles Policy and Procedure CC-186.0 Urinary Catheterization

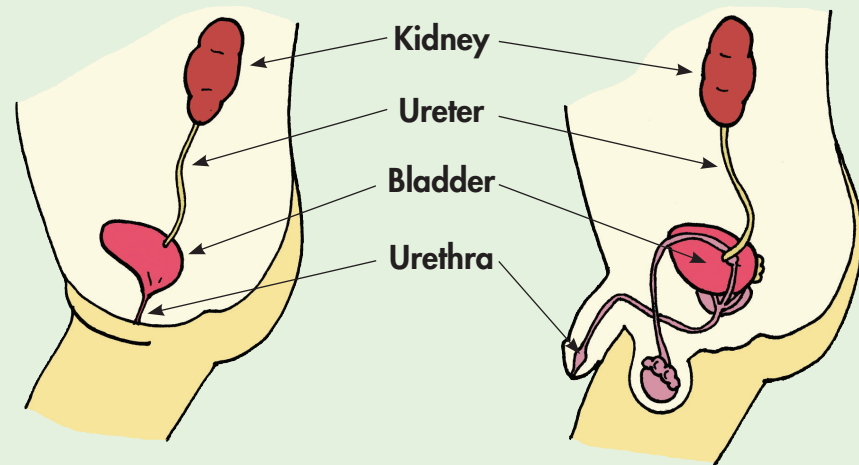
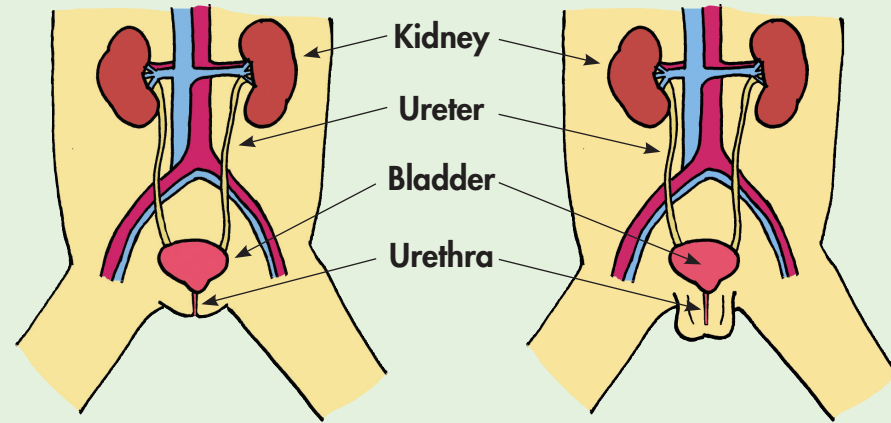
Children's Hospital Los Angeles Radiology Policy and Procedure 160-H2 Renal with washout Scan (Lasix)

# Nuclear Medicine: Mag 3 Renal Scan



## What is a Mag 3 Renal Scan?

A Mag 3 Renal Scan is a test that takes pictures of how the kidneys are working.



Urinary System

## Preparing for the Test

- If you are pregnant, ask the nuclear medicine staff about any safety directions.
- Your child should wear comfortable, lightweight clothing the day of the test.
- Visiting children must stay in the waiting room and may not be left alone. If you plan to go into the test room with your child, please bring another adult with you to watch your children.

## What Will Happen During the Test?

- A staff member will bring you and your child to the nurses' station.
- Your child will need to have an intravenous catheter (IV) placed.
- To place the IV, the nurse will look for a good vein (usually on the hands or arms) and will clean the area and spray a special cold spray on it. This will help your child not feel it as much. Then the nurse will use a needle to place a small tube into your child's vein.
- Once the IV is in place, the needle will be taken out, leaving only a small, soft tube in your child. The nurses will put special water in the IV to make sure it's in the right place. Then they will put tape on it to help it stay in place and to keep your child from moving it.
- After the IV is placed, your child will need to take off his or her pants and underwear.
- The nurse will clean your child's urethra (the opening on the penis for boys and near the vagina for girls where the urine comes out) with soap that feels cold and wet. The soap may cause a tingling feeling.

- The nurse will place gel on a small tube (catheter) to help the tube slide into your child's bladder through the urethra. Your child will feel uncomfortable when the catheter is being placed. It might be like a pushing or pinching feeling.
- A small piece of tape will be used to hold the tube to the inside of your child's leg. Your child will then put on his or her clothes.
- A staff member will bring you and your child to the room where the renal scan pictures will be taken.
- Your child will lie down on the procedure bed and take off part of his or her clothing to be able to use the catheter.
- The nuclear medicine tech will put the opposite end of the tube (catheter) into a urinal for any urine to drain during the test.
- The nuclear medicine tech will connect fluids to the IV to keep your child's body hydrated during the test.
- Next, a tracer will be put into the IV.
- The nuclear medicine tech will help position your child on the procedure bed for pictures. The tech will place a safety belt/wrap across your child's body.
- Your child will have to lie completely still for 1 hour.

