**IMAGING: BONE SCAN**

The role of this procedure is to evaluate the bones to detect arthritis, osteoporosis, fractures, sports injuries or other bone abnormalities. Bone scans may also be used to evaluate unexplained bone pain.

**What to expect**

- Before the exam:
  There are no pre-exam instructions.

- During the exam:
  The patient receives an intravenous injection (in the vein) of a tracer dose of radioactive material. The level of radioactivity is extremely low and has no side effects. During the three-hour delay between the injection and the scan, the patient drinks plenty of fluids (24 to 32 ounces). Outpatients may leave the medical center during the three-hour delay. The scan takes approximately one hour. During that time, the patient is required to lie on the back without moving. Using a special nuclear medicine camera, pictures of the bones are taken. The camera does not produce any radiation. It detects and records the distribution of the radioactive material in the body.

- After the exam:
  There are no post-exam instructions.

**IMAGING: BONE DENSITY SCAN (QDR)**

The role of this procedure is to diagnose osteoporosis (reduced bone mass) and to follow up patients who have been treated for osteoporosis.

**What to expect**

- Before the exam:
  No nuclear medicine scans or contrast studies should be done at least one week before this exam. Also, patients should notify the technologist if they have had back surgery or a hip replacement using metal clips.

- During the exam:
  The patient lies on the scanning table with arms at the side. The scan measures the mineral content of the bones and is done with a low energy X-ray beam that produces very little radiation. The scan is painless and takes approximately 30 minutes.

- After the exam:
  There are no post-exam instructions.