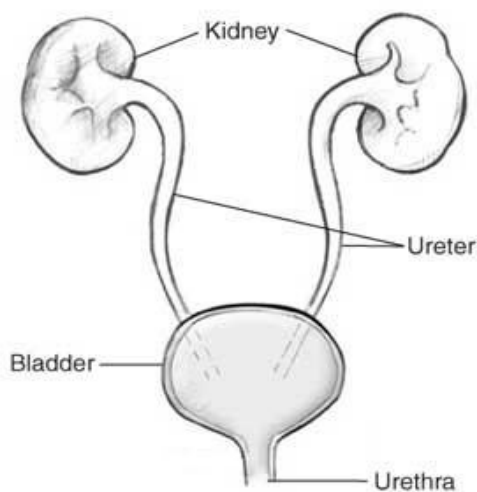


Lasix Renal Scan

What is a Lasix Renal Scan?

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

- A lasix renal scan is a 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 radioisotope (**picture water**) which travels to the part of the body the doctors want to examine.
- In this study, a large gamma camera creates pictures of your child's urinary system using the radioisotope.



Nuclear medicine scanner

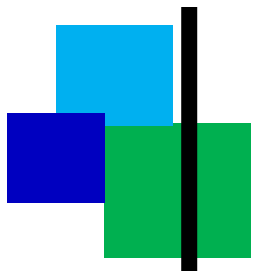
Why is it done?

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

What can I do to help my child?

- Child life specialists are available to help your child better understand and cope with the scan.
- Parents/caregivers are also encouraged to be with their child during the scan, though there are some exceptions. Pregnant women may need to limit their time around a child that has been injected with a radioisotope.
- Please ask a staff member for more information about these options for support!





What should I expect during the procedure?

The entire test takes about 1.5-2.5 hours and is done in three stages.

Stage 1: IV Placement

- For a lasix renal scan, your child will be given an injection of a small amount of radioisotope (picture water) through a vein.
- First, your child will change into a hospital gown and lie down on the camera bed. A 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/her job is to hold his/her 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 quick poke) when the needle is placed.
 - * Counting, singing a favorite song, and/or taking deep breaths can help make this part easier.

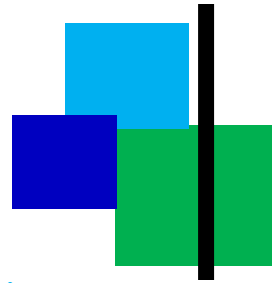
Stage 2: Catheter placement

- 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 "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 faster.

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/her back throughout the scan (which may last up to 2 hours).
 - * Reassure your child that the big camera will not touch or hurt them.
 - * To help make this part easier, many children like to watch a movie. The child life team can provide DVDs and portable DVD players.
- In the middle of the scan, the technologist will 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



A child life specialist (CLS) can help support your child for his/her procedure by explaining it in developmentally appropriate language and suggesting possible coping strategies. If you would like to speak to a CLS before your appointment, see back for contact information.

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.
- 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 /she will have special pictures taken so that the doctor can learn about his/her body.
- Let your child know that a nurse or doctor will be touching the area where he/she goes 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, so try to offer 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 he/she is having pictures taken. For example, “The doctor wants to take special pictures of the part of your body that helps you go to the bathroom.”
- Let your child know that he/she will get special picture water that makes the pictures clear.
- Talk about ways to make the challenging parts easier, such as pretending to blow out birthday candles or breathing deeply to get through any difficult parts of the exam.
- Tell your child that it is his/her job to hold still so that the pictures are clear.

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/her body. For example, for a younger child, “So the doctor can learn more about how your body works.” For an older child, “So the doctor can learn about how your kidneys are working.”
- Explain to your child what he/she might see, hear, and feel in the order things will occur. Use child-friendly language and/or real terms depending on your child’s age and/or preference.
- Talk to your child about different ways to cope. Some children like to know everything that is happening during the exam, while some want to direct their attention elsewhere.
- Encourage your child/teen to ask questions.

Child Life

Children's National Hospital Department of Radiology is staffed with Certified Child Life Specialists. 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.

Contact Information

If you would like to speak to a child life specialist before your child's radiology appointment, please call **202-476-3338** or email **childliferadiology@childrensnational.org**.

Created by Children's National Child Life Services