RBC (Red Blood Cell) LIVER SCAN.

WHAT IS A RBC LIVER SCAN AND WHY AM I HAVING IT?
A RBC Liver scan is a test to determine if abnormal masses found in the liver are benign and made up of malformed blood vessels (called haemangiomas). These haemangiomas are usually found by other tests such as ultrasound or CT scan, but a RBC Liver scan can examine their vascular nature.

HOW IS THE RBC LIVER SCAN DONE?
A small sample of your blood will be taken from a vein and mixed (labelled) with a radioactive tracer. This ‘labelling’ procedure takes about 30 minutes. You will then be asked to lie on a scanning table and your labelled blood will be injected back into one of your veins. During this injection, pictures of your liver will be taken using a special camera for about 30 minutes – during this time you will need to lie very still and breathe normally.

The labelled blood will then be allowed to circulate for about 3 hours, during which you may leave the Department if you wish. When you return, more pictures of the liver will be taken for about 30 minutes, and once again you will need to lie very still and breathe normally.

ARE THERE ANY SIDE EFFECTS?
Aside from the small injection, there is no discomfort associated with the test. The injection has no side effects and is not related to X-ray contrast injections. There is a small dose of radiation from the injection, similar to the dose of radiation you would receive from a CT Scan or back X-ray. As the injection will not make you feel different, you may drive after the scan if you wish.

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR MY SCAN?
There is no special preparation required for this test.

SHOULD I TAKE MY NORMAL MEDICATIONS?
Yes, you should take your usual medications.

CAN I EAT AND DRINK ON THE DAY OF MY TEST?
Yes, you may eat and drink normally.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING FOR MY SCAN?
Please bring your referral letter, your past RBC liver scans, X-rays, CT scans, MRI and Ultrasounds, and your Medicare Card.

WHAT IF I AM PREGNANT?
Usually, the test is not performed on pregnant or breast-feeding women. If you are pregnant, think you might be or are unsure please notify the staff prior to the start of the test.

CAN I TAKE THE RESULTS WITH ME?
Normally the results are prepared after you have left the Department and are posted to your doctor within 24 hours (they should arrive within a few days). If the results are required for an appointment before this time, please notify staff and a result may be able to be given to you 1 hour after the test is completed.

WHERE DO I GO FOR MY SCAN?
Department of Nuclear Medicine & PET, Liverpool Hospital
Ground floor, New Clinical Building (Entrance J), Building No 021
Corner of Hart & Lachlan Streets, Liverpool, NSW-2171
Example of a RBC Liver Scan