Sphincter of Oddi Scan

What is a sphincter of oddi scan?
A sphincter of oddi scan is ordered if you have recurrent abdominal pain after your gallbladder has been removed.

How should I prepare for a sphincter of oddi scan?
You should fast for 4 to 6 hours. Also, do not take morphine or morphine-based pain medicine for 12 hours beforehand. Let the technologist know if you have had an X-ray test using barium contrast material within the past week.

How long does the test take?
When you arrive to the nuclear medicine department a technologist will take you to the imaging room and place an IV in a vein in your arm. Through this IV an injection will be given called cholecystokinin, this is a peptide hormone that is naturally functioning in your body. This hormone is responsible for stimulating the digestion of fat and protein. By giving you this injection it will cause the ducts of your liver to contract. After this injection we will wait fifteen minutes then give you an injection of a radioactive isotope. There are no side effects to this injection. This will allow us to see how the ducts in your liver to your small bowel are functioning. We will take images for an hour and you will be asked to lie very still under the camera during this time.

How soon will the scan results be available?
A radiologist will interpret the images, write a report, and deliver the results to your doctor via the internal computer system. This process usually takes less than 24 hours.

It is essential to tell your doctor if you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant before undergoing this scan because of radiation exposure.

If you would need to cancel your appointment please notify the Department of Nuclear Medicine as soon as possible at 216.444.2807.

This information is provided by Cleveland Clinic and is not intended to replace the medical advice of your doctor or health care provider. Please consult your health care provider for advice about a specific medical condition.