The Gallium scan is a test used to detect inflammation. Inflammation can be an indication of tumours or infections. It is often used to assess and follow patients with Hodgkin's Disease and Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

Gallium imaging utilises the uptake of radioactive form of gallium (67 Ga) which has a high affinity for some tumour cells and white blood cells.
It is safe?
Like all other Nuclear Medicine procedures, the amount of radiation used is extremely small, making this test very safe. In fact, the amount of radiation from most Nuclear Medicine procedures is comparable to an x-ray.

Before the test
There is no preparation for this test. Please advise staff when booking if you are pregnant, or breast feeding.
Please bring any relevant films and your referral to your appointment.

During the test
When you arrive in the Nuclear Medicine Department you will be asked questions about your medical history. You will then be given an injection (into the vein) of a radioactive tracer, and depending on your clinical condition we may need to take images at 24, 48 and 72 hours post injection. Depending on your clinical condition, images of your whole body or only specific areas of concern are taken.
A doctor reviews your Gallium scan images after each visit, as extra images may be needed to obtain more detailed information. Once the required images are done, the test is complete. Total study time may take several hours per day of imaging.

After the test
You may resume your normal activities, and diet after the test. The radioactive tracer you were given is not harmful and it quickly disappears out of your body over the next couple of days through urine and the natural process of radioactivity decay.

The test results
This is reported by a specialist and may take a further 45-60 minutes so you may prefer to return later for your results. This report should then be taken to your referring doctor.
Canberra Imaging Group strongly advise that you return to your referring doctor in order for your doctor to discuss your radiology report with you.