

Bone scan

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Once the diagnosis has been established, if metastatic spread is suspected (on the basis of a high PSA [>10 ng/mL], locally advanced disease or presence of Gleason 7 or higher) - a bone scan should be carried out. If, however, the PSA is <10 ng/mL, then a bone scan would be performed only on clinical indications. The bone scan is performed by the injection of technetium-99m, which is then monitored using a gamma camera. It is more sensitive in the diagnosis of metastases (Figure 84.20) than a skeletal survey , but false positives occur in areas of arthritis, osteomyelitis or a healing fracture.

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