

Nuclear Medicine

Your Hepatobiliary & Gall Bladder Scan

WHAT IS THE SCAN FOR?

The test is to look at the function of your liver and gall bladder.

IS THE SCAN SAFE?

Yes. We will make sure that the amount of radiation you receive is as small as possible. The radioactivity leaves the body very quickly and it will not make you feel sick or sleepy.

DO I NEED TO PREPARE FOR THE SCAN?

You will need to fast overnight from midnight prior to your test.

WHAT DOES THE SCAN INVOLVE?

Shortly after you arrive, you will be asked to lie under a special type of camera. You will be given an injection in your arm, which will make your liver and gall bladder show up on the camera. The injection will contain a small amount of a radioactive liquid. It is harmless with no side effects. We will take some pictures for about an hour.

We may then ask you to drink a fatty drink, which we will provide. We will then take some more pictures for about another hour.

Once you have had your injection, if you need to go to the toilet, you will need to use our special patient toilet – please ask at reception for the door code. It's important that you sit down while using this toilet.

HOW LONG WILL WE BE AT THE HOSPITAL?

Please allow two and a half hours for your appointment.

IS THERE ANYTHING I SHOULD TELL THE STAFF BEFORE THE SCAN?

Would women please tell us if you are pregnant or if you think you may be pregnant. Also, please inform us if you are breast-feeding. Women between the ages of 12 and 55 will be asked to sign a form on the day of their test to confirm they are not pregnant. If there is any doubt, we are legally obliged to perform a pregnancy test before proceeding.

Please tell the staff if you are planning to travel abroad within one week of your scan.

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER THE SCAN?

There are no restrictions on what you can do after the scan. You may drive a car, eat and drink normally and continue taking your tablets.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE RESULTS OF THE SCAN?

We are not able to give you the results of the test on the day of your appointment. A report will go to the doctor who asked for the test. The doctor will arrange for you to get the results.

WHAT DO I DO IF I HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT THE SCAN?

Please ring us on the number above and we will try to answer any questions or concerns that you have.