

Nuclear Medicine

Your Kidney Scan (Renogram)

Your doctor would like you to have a Nuclear Medicine kidney scan, also known as a Renogram and has arranged for you to visit our department. We would like your visit to be as pleasant as possible and hope this leaflet will answer some of the questions you may have.

WHAT IS A KIDNEY SCAN?

A renogram looks at how well your kidneys are functioning. A small amount of radioactivity is used to take pictures of your kidneys and bladder and these will help your doctor understand your illness.

IS THE SCAN SAFE?

Yes. We will ensure 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?

Yes. Please have two extra drinks (of anything) just before leaving home, as this will improve the pictures. You can eat normally and keep taking your tablets.

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

When you arrive you will be asked to have another drink of water or squash. Shortly after you will be taken to a camera room and given a small injection in your arm. The injection contains a small amount of radioactivity, but is harmless with no side effects. The scan will start immediately and takes about 30 minutes. No discomfort is involved.

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 IS THE SCAN PERFORMED?

The scan involves taking pictures while you lie on a bed. The camera is positioned under your back, close to your kidneys. You will not normally need to remove any clothing. The scan is quiet and patients do not normally feel claustrophobic.

After this, you may be required to empty your bladder in front of the camera while sitting on a commode (for women) or standing (for men). This takes only a few minutes and is not necessarily required for all patients.

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?

You can go home or to work. You can drive a car, eat and drink normally and continue taking your tablets.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE RESULTS?

We cannot give you the results of your test. We will send a report to the doctor who asked for the scan as soon as possible. They will arrange your follow-up appointment.