

Nuclear Medicine

Your Thyroid Scan

Your doctor would like you to have a Nuclear Medicine Thyroid scan 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 THYROID SCAN?

A thyroid scan is a test to show the function of your thyroid gland. It is often used to investigate any swellings in your neck. A small amount of radioactivity is used to obtain a picture of your thyroid and this will help your doctor to 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?

No, you do not need to do anything special. You can eat and drink normally. You should keep taking your tablets **EXCEPT** for the following:-

- **THYROXINE** which you should stop taking **3 WEEKS** before the scan
- **LIOthyRONINE**, also known as **TERTROXINE** or **TRIIODOTHYRONINE** which you should stop taking **2 WEEKS** before the scan.
- If you are taking **CARBIMAZOLE**, please telephone the department as soon as possible unless you have already been given clear instructions as to whether or not you need to stop taking it.
- If you are taking **AMIODARONE**, please telephone the department as soon as possible.

If you have any questions about this, please telephone the department before coming for your scan.

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

Shortly after you arrive you will be given a small injection in your arm. The injection contains a small amount of a radioactive liquid, but is harmless with no side effects. About 20 minutes later you will be scanned with a special camera for about 15 minutes.

Once you have had your injection, if you will 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.

Your appointment letter will tell you the time to attend for your scan.

HOW IS THE SCAN PERFORMED?

The scan involves taking pictures while you lie on a bed. The camera is positioned close to your neck. No discomfort is involved. You will not normally need to remove any clothing. The camera is quite open and quiet and patients do not normally feel claustrophobic.

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.