

Nuclear Medicine

Your Kidney (DMSA) Scan

Your doctor would like you to have a Nuclear Medicine 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 THE SCAN FOR?

The test is to look at your kidney function. We do this by taking pictures with a special camera. A small amount of radioactivity is used to take these pictures. The pictures will help your doctor understand your illness.

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?

No, you do not need to do anything special. You can eat and drink normally and keep taking your tablets.

WHAT DOES THE SCAN INVOLVE?

Shortly after you arrive you will be given a small injection in your arm. The injection contains a small amount of a radioactive tracer. It is harmless with no side effects. About 3-4 hours later you will be scanned with a special camera. This will take about 30 minutes. No discomfort is involved. Your appointment letter will tell you the time of the injection and the time you should return for the scan.

Occasionally we may need to take extra pictures.

Once you have had the 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 15mins for the injection and 1 hour for your scan. You may leave the department between the injection and scan.

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 then, by law, we have to perform a pregnancy test before we do the test.

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.