

Nuclear Medicine

Your Red Cell Mass/ Plasma Volume Study

Your doctor would like you to have a Nuclear Medicine Red Cell study 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 RED CELL MASS/ PLASMA VOLUME?

This is a study to investigate the amount of red cells within your body by labelling the red cells and plasma in your blood with a small amount of radioactivity. Then after counting 2 timed blood samples we can calculate red cell mass and plasma volume.

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 and keep taking your tablets.

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

Shortly after you arrive we will take a blood sample from you. You will be free to leave the department for about 90mins, during which time your red cells and plasma will be separated from the blood sample and labelled with small amounts of radioactivity. This will be re-injected into a vein and is harmless with no side effects. About 20mins and 40mins later we will take another blood sample.

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 three months of your scan.

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER THE SCAN?

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.