

## Nuclear Medicine

### Your Child's Kidney (DMSA) Scan

Your doctor would like your child 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 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 the doctor understand your child's illness.

#### **IS THE SCAN SAFE?**

Yes. We will make sure that the amount of radiation received is as small as possible. The radioactivity leaves the body very quickly and it will not make your child feel sick or sleepy or change his/ her urine.

#### **IS THERE ANY PREPARATION FOR THE SCAN?**

No, your child can eat and drink normally and take any medication prescribed, but please let us know if he/ she have been taking antibiotics during the last 2 months.

#### **WHAT DOES THE SCAN INVOLVE?**

A member of staff from Nuclear medicine will come up to the Children and Young Persons Outpatient Department on level 12 soon after you arrive there. Your child will be given a small injection in their arm or hand. The injection contains a small amount of a radioactive tracer. It is harmless with no side effects. About 3-4 hours later your child will be scanned with a special camera in Nuclear Medicine. Your child will lie on a couch with the camera underneath while 3 views of 5 -10mins each are taken. There is no need to undress your child, no discomfort is involved, and you can stay with your child.

The appointment letter will tell you the time of the injection, and the time you should attend Nuclear Medicine on level 6 for the scan. If you wish your child to have anaesthetic cream on the injection site please attend Children and Young Persons Outpatient Department 30mins earlier and let the staff at reception know that you require anaesthetic cream.

Once your child has had the injection, if they need to go to the toilet, they will need to use our special patient toilet while in the department – please ask at reception for the door code. It's important that your child sits down while using this toilet. If your child is in nappies, while in the hospital please place used nappies in a plastic bag and give it to the staff in nuclear medicine.

#### **HOW LONG WILL WE BE AT THE HOSPITAL?**

Please allow 30mins for each of the injection and the scan. You and your child may leave the department between the injection and scan.

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

Please let us know if your child is taking antibiotics.

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

#### **WHAT CAN WE DO AFTER THE SCAN?**

Your child can go home or to school and continue as normal.

#### **WHAT HAPPENS TO THE RESULTS OF THE SCAN?**

We are not able to give you the results of the test on the day of the appointment. A report will go to the doctor who asked for the test. They will arrange a follow-up appointment.

#### **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.