

## Nuclear Medicine

# Your Platelet Study

Your doctor would like you to have a Nuclear Medicine Platelet 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 PLATELET STUDY?

Platelets are a part of your blood. A platelet study looks at the lifespan of platelets within your body and how they are affected by your spleen, by labelling your platelets with a small amount of radioactivity. We can then look at your platelet lifespan from blood samples and pictures over a 10 day period. The study will help your doctor understand your illness.

### IS THE STUDY 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 STUDY?

You can eat and drink normally and keep taking your tablets. You may need to take tablets to improve your platelet count, and you may need a blood sample to obtain your platelet count in the week before the test.

### WHAT IS INVOLVED?

The test starts on a Monday morning. Shortly after you arrive we will take a blood sample from you to obtain your platelet count. We should get the results after about 30mins. If you have sufficient platelets we will take a second blood sample. You will be free to leave the department for about 2¼ hours, during which time your platelets will be separated from the blood sample and labelled with a small amount of radioactivity. This is harmless with no side effects. Your resulting blood will be re-injected and you will be scanned immediately with a special camera for about 2 hours. You will need to return to the department once a day for the rest of the week and the following Monday and Wednesday for a 5 minute picture and a blood sample (platelet count). This should take about 15mins.

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 STUDY PERFORMED?

The scan involves taking pictures while you lie on a bed. The camera is placed close to you. Please remove any metal, including keys and loose change, belts or necklaces that you are wearing before the scan.

### IS THERE ANYTHING I SHOULD TELL THE STAFF BEFORE THE STUDY?

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.

As some of the radioactive tracer will pass out in your urine, please tell us if you suffer at all from incontinence before you come for your scan.

Please tell the staff if you are planning to travel abroad within three months of your scan.

### WHAT CAN I DO AFTER THE STUDY?

You can go home or to work, but please avoid prolonged close contact with babies and young children for the following 72 hours from your injection. 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.