

Radioisotope scan (adults)

Nuclear Medicine Department Patient Information Leaflet

Introduction

Your doctor has suggested that you have a radioisotope scan. This leaflet has been compiled to give you information about this.

What is a radioisotope scan?

It is a test in which a small amount of radioactive substance is used to obtain pictures of how parts of the body are functioning, using a special 'gamma' camera.

Female patients – as the test involves an injection of radioactive substance, please tell us before you come for your appointment if you are, or might be, pregnant. If you are not sure, a pregnancy test will be offered. Please also tell us if you are breastfeeding.

What alternatives are there?

There may be an alternative test you can have. Your consultant will be able to discuss this with you. It is your decision as to whether you have this scan.

How do I prepare for the test?

Unless your appointment letter tells you otherwise, you can eat and drink as normal before the test.

What is involved?

The radioactive substance is injected into a vein in your arm and then, after a set time delay (as stated in your appointment letter), pictures are taken using a gamma camera which show how the substance has been distributed by your body.

The delay is necessary to allow the substance to be properly absorbed. You will not need to undress for the scan but will have to lie fairly still on a couch whilst the pictures are taken.

Is the injection dangerous?

The radiation dose you receive is very low and carries no more risk than having a couple of X-rays. There are no side effects or discomfort associated with the scan. However, since the injection will make you radioactive for a short time we do ask:

- If you work with radiation or photographic film, ask us about when to return to work.
- After your injection, for 24 hours, avoid unnecessary close contact with young children or anyone who could be pregnant. After 24 hours you no longer need to do this as the substance will have passed out of your body.

What should I do after the scan?

You can drive, and eat and drink normally after the scan.

How do I get the results?

The results will be sent to your hospital consultant and you should be sent an appointment to see your consultant in the clinic to discuss these results. If you do not have a follow up appointment or you do not hear anything within one month, please contact your consultant's secretary via the hospital switchboard on 01384 456111.

If you were referred for the scan by your GP, your results will be sent back to them within two weeks.

In radiology departments, every effort is made to keep radiation doses low. The radiation doses from X-ray examinations or isotope scans are small in relation to those we receive from natural background radiation. You should make your doctor aware of any other recent X-rays or scans you may have had, in case they make further examinations unnecessary.

If you have any questions, or if there is anything you do not understand about this leaflet, please contact:

Nuclear Medicine Department on 01384 456111 ext 2335

If your appointment date is not convenient, please contact the Outpatient Booking Team on 01384 365100 (8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday).

This leaflet can be made available in large print, audio version and in other languages, please call 0800 0730510

ਜੇਕਰ ਇਹ ਲੀਫਲੈੱਟ (ਛੋਟਾ ਇਸਤਿਹਾਰ) ਤੁਸੀਂ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ (ਪੰਜਾਬੀ) ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰ ਕੇ ਪੇਸ਼ਟ ਇੰਨਫਰਮੇਸ਼ਨ ਕੋ-ਆਰਡੀਨੇਟਰ ਨਾਲ **0800 0730510** ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

यदि आपको यह दस्तावेज़ अपनी भाषा में चाहिये तो पेशन्ट इनफरमेशन को-आरडीनेटर को टैलीਫ਼ोन ਨੰਬਰ **0800 0730510** पर ਫ਼ोन ਕਰੋ।

જો તમને આ પત્રિકા તમારી પોતાની ભાષા (ગુજરાતી)માં જોઈતી હોય, તો કૃપા કરીને પેશન્ટ ઇન્ફોર્મેશન કો-ઓર્ડિનેટરનો **0800 0730510** પર સંપર્ક કરો.

आपनि यदि এই প্রচারপত্রটি আপনার নিজের ভাষায় পেতে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে পেশেন্ট ইনফরমেশন কো-অর্ডিনেটরের সাথে **0800 0730510** এই নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করুন।

إذا كنت ترغب هذه الوريقة مترجمة بلغتك الاصلية (اللغة العربية), فرجاء ا اتصل بمتنسق المعلومات للمريض
0800 0730510 على التالفون **Information Co-ordinator**

میں ضرورت اس لیف لٹ کو اپنی زبان (اردو) میں حاصل کرنے کے لئے برہم پائی ٹیلیفون نمبر **0800 0730510** پر وضعت انٹرنیشنل کو-آورڈینٹر (مریٹوں کے لئے معلومات کی فراہمی کے سلسلے میں) کے ساتھ رابطہ قائم کریں۔