

Patient information

Nuclear Medicine (Ceretek) Brain 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. Should you have any questions regarding your appointment please contact us on one of the telephone numbers below between 9:00am and 5.00pm Monday- Friday.

0300 131 4797 or 0300 131 5853

WHAT IS A BRAIN SCAN?

A brain scan looks at the blood flow within your brain. A small amount of radioactivity is used to obtain pictures of your brain. Images are taken using a Gamma Camera. A small amount of radioactivity is used to produce these pictures. The pictures will help your doctor understand your illness.

IS THE SCAN SAFE?

The amount of radiation you receive is as small as possible and is similar to other X-ray procedures. 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?

You do not need to do anything special. You can eat and drink normally and keep taking your tablets. You should wear loose fitting comfortable clothing.

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

Women should tell us if they are pregnant, if they think they may be pregnant or if they are breast-feeding. Women between the ages of 12 and 60 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 can do your test.

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

Shortly after you arrive you will have a cannula needle inserted into a vein in your arm or hand. You will then be asked to lie down in a dimly lit room for 10 minutes to relax. You should not talk or read during this time. After which you will be given an injection of a radioactive tracer through the cannula. The injection is a radioactive tracer that shows the blood flow to your brain. We do not expect you to have any side effects to the injection. After a further 5 minutes you may leave the department. You will have your scan approximately 1 hour after the injection. The scan will take about 45 minutes. You will be asked to empty your bladder just before your scan. The scan involves taking pictures while you lie on your back on a bed with your head positioned in a head rest. The camera is placed very close to your head. The camera will slowly move around your head. It is important you keep very still during your scan.

PRECAUTIONS AFTER THE INJECTION

After your injection you should avoid prolonged close contact with pregnant women and children for 24 hours. Children and pregnant women should not accompany you to the department. You should also avoid blood tests and dental visits during this time. If you are planning to travel abroad within 7 days after your appointment please inform the staff during your appointment.

WHAT CAN I DO BETWEEN THE INJECTION AND THE SCAN?

You can leave the hospital or stay with us. Meals and snacks may be bought in the hospital. If possible you should drink plenty of fluids and empty your bladder frequently.

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER THE SCAN IS COMPLETE?

You can go home or to work. You can drive a car and eat and drink normally.

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.

CONSENT

Although you consent for this treatment, you may at any time after that withdraw such consent. Please discuss this with your medical team.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

British Nuclear Medicine Society (BNMS)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information in this leaflet is for guidance purposes only and is not provided to replace professional clinical advice from a qualified practitioner.

YOUR COMMENTS

We are always interested to hear your views about our leaflets. If you have any comments, please contact the Patient Experience Team – Tel: 0300 131 4731 or email: esh-tr.patientexperience@nhs.net

HAND HYGIENE

The Trust is committed to maintaining a clean, safe environment. Hand hygiene is very important in controlling infection. Alcohol gel is widely available for staff use and at the entrance of each clinical area for visitors to clean their hands before and after entering.

OTHER FORMATS

If you require any of the Trust leaflets in alternative formats, such as large print or alternative languages, please contact the Equality and Human Rights Department.

Tel: 0300 131 4434 Email: esh-tr.AccessibleInformation@nhs.net

After reading this information are there any questions you would like to ask? Please list below and ask a member of our team.

Reference

The following clinicians have been consulted and agreed this patient information:

Dr Emma Owens, Consultant Radiologist, ESHT, Dr David Sallomi, Consultant Radiologist, ESHT

The directorate group that have agreed this patient information leaflet:

Core Services

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Responsible clinician/author: Mr Christopher Salt, Nuclear Medicine Modality Manager

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