

## Nuclear Medicine Lung (VQ) Scan

Your doctor would like you to have a Nuclear Medicine Lung 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 the appropriate telephone number below between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday:

Eastbourne Hospital Appointments – Tel: 0300 131 4797  
Conquest Hospital Appointments – Tel: 0300 131 5147

### What is a lung scan?

A Lung scan is a way of examining the air and blood supply to your lungs. 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 condition.

### 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 as soon as possible after receiving this appointment 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 their pregnancy status. If there is any doubt then by law we have to perform a pregnancy test before we can do the test.

### What is involved?

The scan is in 2 parts. You do not need to get undressed for the scan.

The first part looks at the air supply to your lungs. You will be asked to breathe a radioactive mist (nebuliser) through a mouth piece for a few minutes with nose clips on. No discomfort is involved and the mist is tasteless and harmless. We will then take some pictures for about 20 minutes while you lie on a bed.

The second part looks at the blood supply to your lungs. You will be given a radioactive injection into a vein in your arm. We do not expect you to have any side effects to the injection. We then take more pictures which take about 15 minutes. We may also require you to have a chest x-ray which we will arrange when you arrive for your test. Your appointment letter will tell you the time to arrive. Please allow about 1½ hours for your test.

## Precautions after the 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 after the scan?

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](mailto: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 at the patient bedside 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 4500 Email: [esh-tr.AccessibleInformation@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.AccessibleInformation@nhs.net)**

After reading this information are there any questions you would like to ask? Please list below and ask your nurse or doctor.

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## 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:

Diagnostics, Anaesthetics and Surgery Division

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

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