

Nuclear Medicine Parathyroid Scan

Your doctor would like you to have a Nuclear Medicine Parathyroid 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 parathyroid scan?

A parathyroid scan is a test to show the function of your parathyroid glands. It is used to investigate and localise any overactive parathyroid glands in your neck. A small amount of radioactivity is used to obtain a picture of your thyroid and parathyroid glands and this will help your doctor to understand your condition. Images are taken using a Gamma Camera.

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. Some patients may notice a metallic taste soon after the injection which lasts less than a minute.

Do I need to prepare for the scan?

If you are currently taking Metformin/Glucofage we need to know as soon as possible, as we will need to stop these 24 hours before the test AND 48 hours after the test.

You can eat and drink normally and take all other medication.

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. Please inform a member of the staff if you are allergic to Iodine.

What is involved?

Shortly after you arrive you will be given a small injection in a vein in your arm or hand. The injection is a radioactive tracer that is absorbed by your Parathyroid and Thyroid glands. We do not expect you to have any side effects to the injection. You will be asked to remove any necklaces or earrings. The scan involves taking pictures while you lie on your back on a bed. The first scan is done 10 minutes after the injection, and takes approx. 40 minutes. The camera will be positioned close to you, and rotates slowly around your neck. In addition the scanner performs a CT scan. It is important you keep very still during your scans. An injection of Iodine contrast may also be given before starting the CT scan. A second scan similar to the first scan is done **2 hours** after your injection. This scan takes 30 minutes.

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 scans?

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?

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 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

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

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

Next review date: September 2022

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

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