

Patient Information

Your Child's Nuclear Medicine Kidney (DMSA) Scan

Your doctor would like your child to have a Nuclear Medicine Kidney 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 the 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 DMSA scan?

A DMSA scan looks at how well the kidneys are functioning. Images are taken using a Gamma Camera. A small amount of radioactivity is used to produce these pictures.

Is the scan safe?

The amount of radiation your child receives 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 your child feel sick or sleepy.

Is there any preparation for the scan?

No. They can eat normally and keep taking any medication.

If your child has had a urinary tract infection within the last 4 months please inform us before the appointment.

What is involved?

If your child is aged 11 or under, you will need to report to the children's ward first. If you are attending Eastbourne DGH this will be the Friston paediatric short stay ward (on level 3), if you are attending Conquest this will be Kipling paediatric ward (on level 1), please report to the paediatric ward at the time given on the enclosed letter.

If your child is aged 12 or over, please report straight to Radiology reception 2 (Eastbourne DGH) or Radiology reception (Conquest).

Whether on the children's ward or in radiology, a local anaesthetic cream will be applied to your child's skin over 2 or 3 areas on their arms or hands. After approximately 1 hour a cannula needle will be placed into a vein in the arm or hand that has been numbed. When this has been done, if you have been to the children's ward, please report to the Radiology department, where you will be directed to Nuclear Medicine. Anaesthetic cream is not suitable for children under 1 year of age.

In the Nuclear Medicine department your child will be given an injection through the cannula. The injection is a radioactive tracer that is absorbed by their kidneys. You may then leave the department and the scan will take place 3-4 hours later. Your child should be encouraged to have additional drinks. For the scan your child will need to lie down on the scanning bed on their back. We may use Velcro straps to keep your child still. Images are taken using 2 scanners positioned close to the kidneys. The scan takes approximately 30 minutes. Your child will need to keep very still during the scan. We do not expect any adverse reactions to the tracer injection.

Precautions after the injection

If your child uses nappies please place any used nappies directly in an outside bin for up to 24 hours after the injection as some of the radioactive tracer will be present in your child's urine. Children and pregnant women should not accompany your child to the department. Your child should also avoid blood tests and dental visits during this time. If your child is travelling abroad within 7 days after the appointment please inform the staff during the appointment.

What can my child do after the scan?

Your child can 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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