

Patient Information

Your Child's Nuclear Medicine Thyroid Scan

Your doctor would like your child 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 the 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 THYROID SCAN?

A thyroid scan is a test to show the function of your child's thyroid gland. It may have been requested as a follow up to a recent blood test. A small amount of radioactivity is used to obtain a picture of your child's thyroid gland. Images are taken using a Gamma Camera and this will help the doctor to understand your child's Thyroid function.

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?

You should contact the department if your child has taken or has recently been given any of the following within 6 weeks of this appointment.

THYROXINE, PTU, CARBIMAZOLE, LIOTHYRONINE, TERTROXINE, TRIODOTHYRONINE, IODINE SUPPLEMENTS, CT CONTRAST or AMIODARONE

If you have any questions about this, please telephone the department before coming for the scan.

Your child can eat and drink normally.

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 Scott Unit (on level 1), if you are attending Conquest this will be Kipling paediatric ward (on level 1), please report to the children's ward 1 ½ hours before the Radiology appointment time stated on the appointment letter. If your child is aged 12 or over, please report directly to Radiology at the appointment time stated on the appointment letter.

On the children's ward a local anaesthetic cream may be applied to your child's skin over 2 or 3 areas on their arms, hands or feet. Anaesthetic cream is not suitable for children under 1 year of age.

Approximately 1 hour after the cream has been applied a cannula needle will be placed into a vein in the area that has been numbed.

You will then be asked to report to the Radiology department.

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 hours later.

Children aged 12 and over will have the cannula placement done in the Nuclear Medicine department. Anaesthetic cream is not routinely used for these children.

In the Nuclear Medicine department your child will be given a radioactive tracer through the cannula needle. The scan will begin approximately 20 minutes later and takes up to 60 minutes. 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. The scanner will be positioned very close to their face and neck. 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 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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