

## Nuclear Medicine Hepatobiliary (HIDA) 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 HIDA SCAN?

A HIDA scan assesses the function of the Liver, Bile Ducts and Gall Bladder. The scan may be performed in patients that do not have a gall bladder. 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.

**Please be aware the “tracer” used in this procedure is unlicensed in the UK. All UK Nuclear Medicine departments currently undertaking this scan are using this tracer. It has been approved for use by the East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust safety committee and is recommended for use by the UK governing body (BNMS). Note the tracer is used globally and does have licensed use in Europe.**

### DO I NEED TO PREPARE FOR THE SCAN?

If you are currently taking **Morphine, Pethidene or Codeine** medication do not take this medication for at least 12 hours before your appointment.

Do not have anything to eat or drink for **6 hours** before your appointment.

### 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 do the test.

### WHAT IS INVOLVED?

You will be asked to empty your bladder just before your scan.

You will then be given a small injection in a vein in your arm or hand whilst you are lying down on the scanner bed. The camera will be over your abdomen only. The injection is a radioactive tracer that is absorbed by the liver. We do not expect you to have any side effects to the injection. The scan monitors the movement of the tracer from the liver through the biliary system into the small intestine and will last approximately 90 minutes. You will need to keep very still for the scan.

If you have a gall bladder some of the tracer will collect in your gall bladder. During the scan we may give you something to drink to stimulate your Gall Bladder to empty of tracer.

### 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 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](mailto: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

Next review date: October 2025  
Responsible clinician/author: Mr Christopher Salt, Nuclear Medicine Modality Manager  
© East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust – [www.esht.nhs.uk](http://www.esht.nhs.uk)