

# Patient information

## Nuclear Medicine PSMA 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 PSMA SCAN?

A PSMA (**P**rostate **S**pecific **M**embrane **A**ntigen) scan looks for certain types of cells related to your prostate condition by labelling them with a small amount of radioactivity. A Gamma Camera produces pictures of where the radioactivity is absorbed within your body. 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 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?

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 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.

### 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 in your body. We do not expect you to have any side effects to the injection. You will have a scan approximately 3 hours after the injection. The scan will take approximately 1 hour 15 minutes.

You will be asked to empty your bladder just before your scan and to remove any clothing containing metal and to empty your pockets. The scan involves taking pictures while you lie on a bed. The camera is placed close to the part of your body being studied. During your scan images are taken where the camera slowly moves from your head to your toes. Additional images include the camera rotating slowly around your body to produce a 3D image. It is important you keep very still during your scan.

### 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 THE SCAN?**

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 IS COMPLETE?**

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.

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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:

Core Services

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

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