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Having a scan for Meckel's diverticulum

Department of Nuclear Medicine

Information for Patients

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What is a Meckel's diverticulum test?

We use a small amount of radioactivity to take images of your tummy (abdomen). We do this to look for Meckel's diverticulum. This is a small pouch outside of the stomach that releases stomach acid. This can cause pain and bleeding.

If you cannot attend your appointment please call 0116 258 5627 to rearrange at least 3 days before so that we can try to offer your appointment to someone else. You may get a reminder by text message if we have your mobile phone number on our system. Please make sure you respond to this.

Before your appointment, You must tell us if you:

- are pregnant, think you may be pregnant, or have just missed a period.
- are breastfeeding. This is because radioactive substances can come out in breast milk. We may advise you to stop breastfeeding for a short time.
- have any pee control (incontinence) problems. This is because radioactive substances will be in your pee (urine). You may need special instructions because of this.
- have problems with your memory or learning difficulties. We need to make sure you can follow all of the instructions for your test and after you go home.
- need an interpreter (please tell us at least 3 days before you appointment
- have help with personal care (paid or unpaid). Your care may need some safety instructions after you have had your dose of radiation.
- are arriving by ambulance please contact Department as soon as possible.

If you are arriving by ambulance please contact Department as soon as possible.

How do I prepare for the scan?

We have sent you some medication to help prepare for the test. Please take this as instructed on the label. This medication reduces the radiation dose you receive from this test and improves the quality of the scan. If you have any questions about this medication, please contact Radiopharmacy on: **0116 258 5579.**

Please do not eat or drink anything else for 4 hours before your appointment.

What happens during the scan?

We will explain the scan and you can ask any questions.

We use a special (gamma) camera to take pictures of your stomach.

We will ask you to lie still on a couch. We will then give you a small radioactive injection into a vein in your arm. This is no more painful than having a blood test. We will then start the scan right away.

In order to get good quality pictures the gamma camera will be quite close to you. You will not need to undress.

We will take a series of 5 minute images for a total of 1 hour. In some cases, we may need to take extra images. This different from patient to patient.

What happens after the scan?

- You will be radioactive after you have had your injection until the next morning. To minimise any risk to you and your friends we ask you to:
- Drink plenty of extra fluids
- Male patients should sit down to pee. Flush the toilet 2 times after use.
- Wash your hands thoroughly each time you use the toilet.
- Do not spend more than 30 minutes with anyone who is or maybe pregnant, small children or babies
- There is no problem in returning to work. Please ask staff for advice if you work with radiation or in the photographic industry.

Are there any risks?

It is very unlikely to get side effects from the radioactive injection. There is a small risk linked with the radiation you get by having this scan.

Ionising radiation can cause cell damage that after many years or decades turn cancerous. We are all at risk of getting cancer during our lifetime. The normal risk is that this will happen to about 50% of people at some point in their life.

The dose of radiation you will get from this test is very small. It is the same dose you would get from the environment in around 1.7 years. Having this test will add only a very small chance of this happening to you. In fact, the risks from missing a serious disorder by not having this test may be much higher.

How will I get my results?

A radiologist will look at your scans. The results will be passed on to your consultant. They will talk with you at your next outpatient appointment.

Can I bring someone with me?

Due to the nature of the test, friends and relatives will not be allowed into radiation areas. This is unless we need their help.

Please do not bring children with you to your appointment. Radiation is more hazardous for children and pregnant women than for adults. Please do not to bring them into the Nuclear Medicine Department unless they are coming for a scan.

If you need hospital transport, please see our website https://www.uhleicester.nhs.uk/

Directions to Nuclear Medicine

Leicester Royal Infirmary: Level 0, Sandringham Building (near Osborne Building).

Glenfield hospital: The Department is best reached by the East Entrance.

Who can I call if I have questions?

For specific information regarding your test, please contact (answering machine checked during office hours):

Leicester Royal Infirmary: **0116 258 5627**

Glenfield Hospital: **0116 258 3850**

Leicester Radiopharmacy Service: **0116 258 5579**

If you cannot attend please let us know as soon as possible. This is so we can offer your appointment to another patient. We might send you a text reminder if we have your phone number. If you have questions about your health, ask your GP or the doctor who sent you to us.

What happens if I cannot attend or miss my appointment?

- **You can ask to change or decline your appointment up to 2 times. If you cancel again after that, you may be discharged.**
- **If you do not come to your appointment, or someone does not bring you, you may be discharged back to the person who referred you after 1 missed appointment.**

Useful websites

- www.bnms.org.uk
- www.radiologyinfo.org
- www.patient.co.uk

Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice
Visit www.uhleicester.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals.
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact uhl-tr.informationforpatientsmailbox@nhs.net

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہِ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।
إذا كنت ترغب في الحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغةٍ أُخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل
Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu
જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો.

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead
or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email uhl-tr.equalitymailbox@nhs.net

We are a research hospital and you may be asked to take part in research

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