

Having a white cell scan

Department of Nuclear Medicine

Information for Patients

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What is a white cell scan?

It is a safe and simple procedure. We use a small amount of radioactivity to take images of your body. It is done in 1 day.

If you cannot attend your appointment please call 0116 258 5627 to rearrange at least 3 days before. We can then try to offer your appointment to someone else.

You may get a reminder by text message if we have your mobile 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.
- you are breastfeeding. Radioactive substances can come out in breast milk. You may be told to stop breastfeeding for a short time.
- you have any incontinence problems. Radioactive substances will be present in your pee (urine). You may need special instructions because of this.
- you have problems with your memory or learning difficulties.
- you need an interpreter (please tell us at least 3 days before your appointment).
- are arriving by ambulance please contact Department as soon as possible.

How do I prepare for the scan?

Please have plenty to drink before your appointment. You may continue to eat and take any medication as normal.

**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

What happens during the scan?

You will be taken into a room. We will explain the procedure to you. You may ask any questions you have.

1st appointment:

We take a blood sample. This will take between 15 and 30 minutes to do. From your blood sample we take some cells out. We treat them with a small amount of radioactivity. This takes 1 hour and 30 minutes to do. During this time you are free to leave the department until your 2nd appointment time.

2nd appointment:

We inject the treated cells into a vein in your arm. This is no more painful than the blood test. We will take images at 1 hour and 4 hours after the injection. During the time we do not need to take an image, you are free to leave. We will tell you the times you will need to return for your scan.

During your scan you need to lie still on the bed. The gamma camera will be quite close to you, so that we can get good quality pictures. You will not be left alone in the room.

You may remain dressed. You will not feel any ill effects after the injection. You will be fit to drive or use public transport.

What happens after the scan?

You will be radioactive after you have had your injection until the next morning. To lower any risk to yourself and others we ask you to:

- drink plenty of extra fluids.
- flush the toilet well after use. Men should sit down when going for a pee.
- wash your hands well each time you use the toilet.
- do not spend more than 30 minutes with anyone who is or maybe pregnant, small children and babies.
- usually there is no problem in returning to work. If you work with radiation or in the photographic industry, please ask staff for advice.

Are there any risks?

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

Ionising radiation can cause cell damage. This may, after many years or decades, turn cancerous. We are all at risk of developing 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. You would get about the same dose from the environment in about 2.7 years. Having this test will add only a very small chance of this happening to you. 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 scan. The results are passed on to your consultant. They will be discussed with you at your next outpatient appointment.

Useful information

Due to the type of examination, friends and relatives will not be let in the room during the procedure, unless we need their help.

Please do not bring children with you to your appointment. Radiation is more dangerous for children and pregnant women than for adults. Please do not 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.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk>

Directions to Nuclear Medicine

- Leicester Royal Infirmary: Level 0, Sandringham Building (behind the multi-storey car park).
- Glenfield Hospital: the department is best reached via the east entrance.

Contact details

For specific information about 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 have a question about your medical condition please contact your GP or the doctor who made your referral.

More information

Useful websites: www.bnms.org.uk www.radiologyinfo.org www.patient.co.uk

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل
જો તમને અસ્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

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