

Having a brain perfusion scan

Department of Nuclear Medicine

Information for Patients

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What is a brain perfusion scan?

A brain perfusion scan is a safe and simple procedure using a small amount of radioactivity to take images of the blood flow to your brain. It is done on one day.

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 must tell us if:

- You are pregnant, think you may be pregnant, or have just missed a period.
- You are breastfeeding. This is because radioactive substances can come out in breast milk and you may be advised to stop breastfeeding for a short time.
- You have any incontinence problems. This is because radioactive substances will be present in your wee (urine) and 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 you appointment).
- You receive nursing or personal care from a family member or friend as they will need extra information about what to do after your scan.

How do I prepare for the scan?

You can eat as normal and take your usual medication. It's helpful if you can have plenty to drink before your appointment.

**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 where the procedure will be explained and you may ask any questions that you have.

You will be given a small radioactive injection into a vein in your arm (no more painful than a blood test). You will not feel any ill-effects from this.

About 20 minutes later, you will be taken into the camera room and asked to lie down on the couch for about 35 minutes with your head close to the camera.

You may remain dressed. In order to get good pictures, the gamma camera will be quite close to you and you will need to keep very still. A member of staff will be checking on you throughout your scan.

What happens after the scan?

You will be radioactive after you have had your injection for the next 24 hours. To minimise any risk to yourself and others, we ask you to follow the advice below:

- Drink plenty of extra fluids.
- Flush the toilet well after use (men should sit down when going for a wee).
- Wash your hands thoroughly each time you use the toilet.
- Avoid prolonged contact (more than 30 minutes) with anyone who is pregnant or may be pregnant, small children and babies.
- Usually there is no problem in returning to work, however please ask staff for advice if you work with radiation or in the photographic industry.

Are there any risks?

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

Ionising radiation can cause cell damage that 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 receive from this test is very small. It is the same dose you would receive from the environment in approximately 2 years. Having this test will therefore 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 considerably greater.

How will I get my results?

Your scan will be looked at by a radiologist, and the results passed on to your consultant. The results will be discussed with you at your next outpatient appointment.

Useful information

You may wish to bring a relative or friend with you. Due to the type of examination, friends and relatives will not be allowed into 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, so 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> or call TASL on 0345 241 3012 at least 3 days before your appointment.

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.

Further 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 અન્ય 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