

# Children's DMSA kidney scan

Nuclear Medicine

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Information for Patients

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## What is a DMSA scan?

This is a safe and simple procedure that uses a small amount of radioactivity to get images of your child's kidneys. It is done by a nuclear medicine technologist and/ or a specialist nurse. There may also be a trainee present.

The scan is named after the chemical dimercapto succinic acid or DMSA for short.

**If you cannot attend this appointment please call 0116 258 5627.**

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.

## We need to know if your child:

- has any problems holding their wee (incontinence). This is because their wee (urine) will have radioactive substances and you may need special instructions because of this. For babies or toddlers who are still in nappies, there is extra information later on in this leaflet.
- needs an interpreter, **please tell us at least 3 days before your appointment.**
- has had a urinary tract infection (UTI) in the last 6 months, as this can affect their results.

## What do I need to do before I attend?

Please make sure that your child has plenty to drink. The test works better if they are well hydrated. Your child can eat as normal and take their usual medicines.

**Health information and support is available at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)  
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit [www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk](http://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](mailto:InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)

## When you arrive

We will explain the test and you will have a chance to ask questions.

We will need to weigh your child so we can give them the right dose in their injection.

**All patients aged 10 to 55 years are asked if there is any chance that they could be pregnant, and if they are breastfeeding. This might seem odd, but it is because of the radiation and is required by law.**

## What happens during the injection?

We will need to insert a fine plastic tube (a cannula) into 1 of your child's veins to give the injection. If your child is over 12 months old, we can use a special cream (ametop) with a clear dressing or cold spray to numb the area where the injection will be given.

Inserting a cannula can be difficult. We will need staff to hold your child still for a period of time. Please bear with us while we do this. You may find that your appointment takes longer or has been delayed since children can find this experience a bit scary. Please allow plenty of time for your appointment.

The radioactive injection is then given to your child through the cannula. From this point, your child is now radioactive. We may give you some gloves to use for nappy changes during your stay.

**Please note:** Due to lack of space in our injection rooms, we will only invite 1 parent or carer into the room. Our play specialist will be able to help and support you while your child is given the injection.

After the injection is done, you will then be free to leave the department for about 2 hours. We will confirm the time of the scan with you before you leave.

## What happens during the scan?

Images are taken using a gamma camera. Your child will need to lie on a bed while we take 2 images, each one lasting for 5 minutes.

It is important that they stay still during each of these images. You can be next to your child while we take the images. We can provide plenty of distraction to try and make it as pleasant as possible.

## What happens after the scan?

Your child will be radioactive after their injection for the next 24 hours. To reduce any risk to yourself and others we ask you to:

- encourage your child to drink plenty of extra fluids.
- flush the toilet well after use. Boys should sit down when going for a wee.
- make sure that your child washes their hands well each time they use the toilet.

If your child wears nappies, we will give you gloves to wear during nappy changes. You will need to continue doing this for the next 24 hours. Please also make sure that you wipe your child well and wash your hands well after each nappy change. You will then need to store the nappies, wipes and gloves for 2 days before your bins are emptied by the council. Using an outdoor bin is fine, as long as it is not due to be emptied within this time period.

## Are there any risks?

It is very unlikely that your child will have any side effects from the radioactive injection.

The dose of radiation your child will receive is less than the dose they would receive from the environment in about 4 months.

Ionising radiation can cause cancer which may happen after many years or decades. The risk of having cancer from this scan is less than 0.1%, which is low.

For comparison, the natural lifetime cancer incidence in the general population is about 50%.

In all cases the benefit your child will gain from having their scan will be greater than the small risk from being exposed to radiation.

## How will I get the results of the scan?

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

## Useful information

Please do not bring other children with you to your child's 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 [www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk](http://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 child's test, please contact (answering machine checked during office hours):

Leicester Royal Infirmary: 0116 258 5627

Leicester Radiopharmacy Service: 0116 258 5579

If you have a question about your child's medical condition please contact your GP or the doctor who made the referral.

## Useful websites

[www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/aboutus/departments-services/imaging-services/nuclear-medicine/](http://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/aboutus/departments-services/imaging-services/nuclear-medicine/)

[www.informed-scan.com/](http://www.informed-scan.com/)

[www.bnms.org.uk/](http://www.bnms.org.uk/)

[www.radiologyinfo.org/](http://www.radiologyinfo.org/)

[patient.info/](http://patient.info/)

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔  
على هذه المعلومات بلغةٍ 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 ਵਿੱਚ 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](mailto:equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)