

Having a GFR kidney function test

Nuclear Medicine

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Information for Patients

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What is a glomerular filtration rate (GFR) test?

This is a simple procedure that uses a very small amount of radioactivity to show the function of your kidneys. It is a blood test and no images are taken. This procedure is done on 1 day.

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. This is because radioactive substances can come out in breast milk. You may be advised to stop breastfeeding for a short time.
- You have any incontinence problems. This is because radioactive substances are 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)
- You have had an X-ray or other type of scan where an injection or drink was given in the last 2 weeks
- You suffer from swelling (oedema), a lot of fluid in the stomach (ascites) or are having hyper hydration therapy
- You are taking any of the following: diuretics (frusemide), aminoglycoside antibiotics, penicillins, sulphonamides and aluminium
- If you are coming by ambulance please contact the department as soon as possible

If you are unable to attend your appointment, please contact the department on 0116 258 5627

**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

How to prepare for the test

Please do not have anything with caffeine such as tea, coffee, chocolate, and fizzy drinks from 10pm the night before your test. On the morning of your test you may eat a light breakfast. Toast or cereal is fine, but please do not eat anything with large amounts of protein (meat, fish, eggs, nuts or pulses).

Please bring a list of your current medication with you.

What happens during the GFR test?

- You will be taken into a room where the procedure will be explained to you. You can ask any questions you have about your test.
- We will weigh you and measure height.
- We will give you a small radioactive injection in a vein in your arm. This will be no more painful than having a blood test. You will not feel any ill-effects from the injection. It does not make you sleepy and does not stop you from driving a car.
- We will take blood samples at 2 hours, 2½ hours, 3 hours, and 4 hours after your injection. You are free to leave the department between each part of the test.

Your test will take about 4½ hours in total.

Are there any risks?

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 get from this test is very small. It is the same dose you would get from the environment in about 8 days. 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 greater.

What happens after the test?

Important instructions to follow after your test until the next day

We ask you to:

- Flush the toilet well after use
- Wash your hands really well each time you use the toilet
- You can come into contact with other people as normal
- You can usually return to work without any problem, but please ask staff for advice if you work with radiation or in the photographic industry



How do I get the results?

The results will be passed on to your consultant. Your results will be discussed with you at your next outpatient appointment.

Relatives and children

Please do not bring children with you unless they are coming for a scan. Small children and pregnant women are more at risk from the effects of radiation.

Directions to Nuclear Medicine

Glenfield Hospital - The department is best reached via the East Entrance, left of the main entrance

Leicester Royal Infirmary - The reception desk is in Sandringham Building (near Osborne) behind the multi storey car park.

Further information

For specific information about your 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 medical condition please contact your G.P. or the doctor who made your referral.

Useful websites

www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/aboutus/departments-services/imaging-services/nuclear-medicine/

www.bnms.org.uk

www.radiologyinfo.org

www.patient.co.uk

www.informed-scan.com/

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 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