

Having a DMSA kidney scan

Nuclear Medicine Department

Information for Patients

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What is a DMSA kidney scan?

This is a safe and simple procedure that uses a small amount of radioactivity to get images of your kidneys. It is done by a Nuclear Medicine Technologist or a Specialist Nurse. There may also be a trainee in the room.

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

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 and you may be told to stop breastfeeding for a short time (please contact us in advance).
- you have any incontinence problems. This is because radioactive substances will be in your pee (urine) and you may need special instructions because of this.
- you have problems with your memory, or learning difficulties as we need to make sure you can follow the instructions for your test and after you go home.
- you have help with personal care (paid or unpaid), as your carer may need some safety instructions after you have had your dose of radiation.
- you need an interpreter (please tell us at least 3 days before your appointment).
- **you have had a urinary tract infection (UTI) in the last 6 months, as this can affect your results.**

**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

- **If you are arriving by ambulance please contact the department (the phone number can be found on your appointment letter) as soon as possible.**

How do I prepare for my scan?

Please make sure that you drink plenty of fluid before your appointment. You can eat normally, and take your usual medication.

What happens during my scan?

You will have time to talk to a member of staff about the procedure and ask any questions. You will have 2 appointments on the same day, each one should take between 15 and 30 minutes. The full procedure will take about 2 hours 30 minutes, this includes 2 hours in between appointments when you can leave the department.

1st appointment

You will be given a small radioactive injection in a vein in your arm (this is no more painful than having a blood test). You are then free to leave the department until your second appointment time. You will not feel any side effects from the injection. It does not make you sleepy and does not stop you from driving a car.

After your injection you will need to drink plenty of fluids and go to the toilet often. This will reduce the small radiation dose you get and improve the quality of your scan.

2nd appointment

You will be asked to lie still on a bed and pictures will be taken around your tummy. To get good quality pictures the Gamma Camera will be quite close to you. The Camera will not touch you and will not make a noise. You will not need to undress. You may be left alone in the room. There is a large window and intercom so we will be able to see and speak to you.

What do I need to do after my scan?

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

- Drink plenty of extra water or fluids.
- Flush the toilet more than once after use. (men should sit down when going for a pee)
- Wash your hands thoroughly each time you use the toilet.
- Avoid close contact (for more than 30 minutes) with anyone who is or may be pregnant, small children and babies.
- Usually 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 that you will have any side effects from the radioactive injection.

There is a small risk from the radiation you get from having this scan. Ionising radiation can cause cell damage that may, after many years or decades, turn cancerous. We are all at risk of getting cancer during our lifetime. About 50% of people will get cancer 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 4 months. Having this test will only increase your risk of getting cancer by a very small amount. The risks from missing a serious disorder by not having this test may be much bigger.

How will I get the results of my scan?

Your scan will be looked at by a Radiologist and the results given to your Consultant. The consultant will talk to you about the results at your next outpatient appointment.

Useful information

You may wish to bring a relative or friend with you. Due to the nature of the examination they may not be allowed in the room during your examination.

Please **do not bring children or pregnant women with you** to your appointment. Radiation is more dangerous for children and pregnant women. You should not bring them into the Nuclear Medicine Department unless they are coming for a scan.

If you need hospital transport, please see the information on our website:
www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/patients/patient-and-visitor-services/patient-transport-travel/
or call our patient transport service (TASL) on 0345 241 3012 at least 3 days before your appointment.

Directions to Nuclear Medicine

Glenfield Hospital - The best way to get to the department is via the East Entrance.

Leicester Royal Infirmary - Level 0, Sandringham Building (behind the multi-storey car park).

Contact details

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

Nuclear Medicine department, Leicester Royal Infirmary: 0116 258 5627

Nuclear Medicine department, Glenfield Hospital: 0116 258 3850

Leicester Radiopharmacy Service: 0116 258 5579

If you have a question about your medical condition please contact your G.P. or the doctor who sent you for this test.

Useful websites

www.informed-scan.com/types-of-imaging/nuclear-medicine

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 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