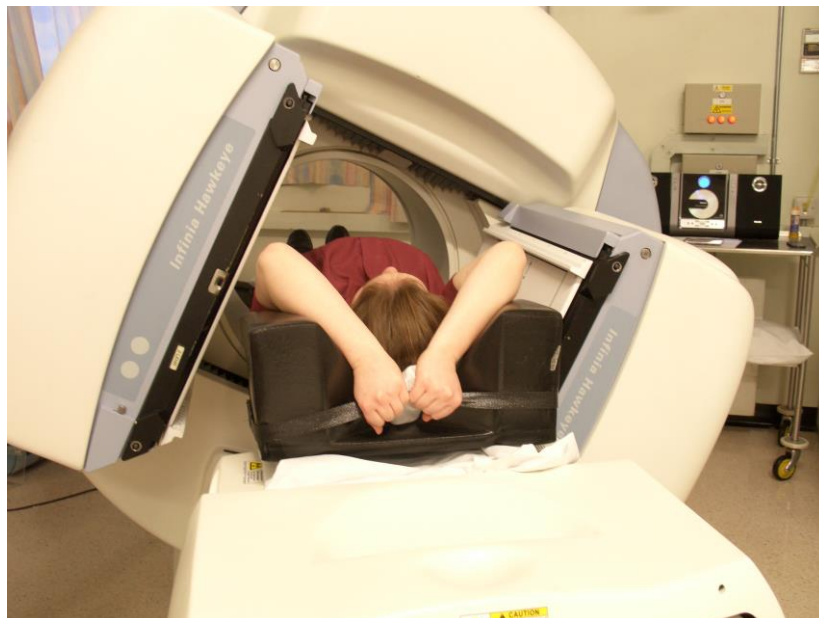


VQ Lung Scan



**Patients must also read their appointment letter
and any enclosures carefully**

What is a VQ Lung Scan?

A VQ lung scan is also known as a ventilation perfusion scan. This scan is a diagnostic procedure which looks at the blood and air supply to your lungs. It involves breathing slightly radioactive air through a mouthpiece, an injection of a small amount of radioactive liquid and imaging with a special camera.

How do you prepare for this scan?

There is no preparation for this scan. You can eat, drink and take medication as normal.

Females: Due to the radiation involved, there is a very small risk to an unborn or breastfeeding child. Therefore, it is important that you let us know in advance if you are or may be **pregnant** or **breastfeeding**.

Who can come with you for this scan?

It is fine if you want someone to come with you on the day of the scan. However, because we only have one waiting room, we advise you not to be accompanied by children or pregnant women to help to minimise the radiation exposure to these people.

Finding the Nuclear Medicine Department

The Nuclear Medicine Department is located in Zone C, Department C16.

How is the scan performed?

A technician will ask you to breathe slightly radioactive air through a mouthpiece for about one to two minutes. It will not make you feel any different.

You will need to lie still with your arms above your head and breathe normally while the images are taken. The first series of images will take about 20 minutes.

Next, while you are still lying on the scanning bed, a small amount of radioactive liquid will be injected into a vein in your arm. This will not make you feel any different. More images will be taken, similar to the previous ones, but these will take approximately 10 minutes.

You **MAY** be asked to remove certain items of clothing. If you are wearing a necklace, you will be asked to remove this.

You will not be enclosed in a tunnel and you will not be left alone during the scan.

The whole procedure takes about 60 minutes.

Post-Scan X-ray

After your scan, you may be sent for a chest x-ray. It is important that the consultant radiologist who reports your scan has a recent chest x-ray as it will provide helpful information on your condition.

If you have not had an x-ray within 48 hours before your scan, we will arrange for you to have one done after the scan. This will be done in the x-ray department

How will this scan affect you?

The procedure will not affect your ability to drive home so it is not necessary for anyone to accompany you unless you so wish.

For **24 hours** after the scan, all patients should sit on the toilet when passing urine.

Are there any risks from the radiation?

The radioactive substances are used as sparingly as possible and the benefits of this scan far outweigh the small risk from radiation. The radiation dose you will receive is similar to the radiation that you receive from natural sources in a year. The radioactive substance is quickly eliminated from your body. You can help this process by drinking plenty of fluid for the rest of the day and emptying your bladder more often than normal.

Will the radiation affect other people?

The radiation dose to other people around you is low and is therefore not a cause for concern.

How will you get the results?

You will not be given any results on the day of the scan. The consultant radiologist will, within a few days, send a report to the doctor or specialist who referred you for the scan.

Travelling after your scan

Some airports, seaports, train stations, bus stations and major sporting event venues have installed very sensitive radiation detectors. It is possible that these detectors may be triggered by the small amount of radioactivity remaining in your body on the days following your scan. Therefore, if you are planning to travel within seven days following your scan, it is recommended that you carry your appointment letter to show to officials if necessary.

Additional Information:

If you have any concerns or questions with regard to this procedure, or you need this information in another format such as larger print, please telephone the Nuclear Medicine Department on the phone number below:

Nuclear Medicine Department: 01225 824076



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Combe Park, Bath BA1 3NG
01225 428331 www.ruh.nhs.uk

Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) if you require this leaflet in a different format, or would like to feedback your experience of the hospital. Email ruh-tr.PatientAdviceandLiaisonService@nhs.net or telephone 01225 825656.