

Lung Scan in Pregnancy



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

What is a Lung Scan?

A lung scan is also known as a lung perfusion scan. This scan is a diagnostic procedure which looks at the blood supply to your lungs. It is different to an x-ray and other types of scan. It involves an injection of a small amount of radioactive liquid and imaging with a special camera.

Are there any risks to my baby, myself or others 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.

As you are pregnant we use half the dose we would give to someone who is not pregnant, the radiation dose you will receive is similar to the radiation that you receive from natural sources in a few months. The radiation dose to your baby is even lower than this, similar to what it will receive from natural sources in a month.

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.

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

How do you prepare for this scan?

There is no preparation for this scan.

You can eat, drink and take medication as normal.

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 other pregnant women to help to minimise the radiation exposure to those not needing the scan.

How is the scan performed?

A small amount of radioactive liquid will be injected into a vein in your arm. This will not make you feel any different.

You will need to lie still on your back with your arms above your head and breathe normally while these images are taken, this will take around 20 minutes.

You MAY be asked remove clothing. If you are wearing a necklace, you will be asked to remove it and possibly any other jewellery. You will not be enclosed in a tunnel and you will not be left alone during the scan.

When your scan is assessed it may be decided that it would be necessary for you to come back for a further scan the following day to look at the air supply to your lungs. For this you will be asked to breathe in slightly radioactive air through a mouthpiece. This will not make you feel any different. Images will be acquired with you lying in the same position as the previous day.

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.

How will you get the results?

You will normally be asked to go back to ambulatory care/the ward you came from to await the results, which will normally be available by the end of the day, unless arranged otherwise.

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.

Finding the Nuclear Medicine Department

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

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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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.