

## DCG Scan (Eye Scan)



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

### **What is a DCG Scan?**

---

A DCG eye scan (also known as a lacrimal dacrycystogram or dacryoscintigram) is a diagnostic procedure which is different to an x-ray and other types of scans. It looks at the drainage of your tear ducts using a very slightly radioactive liquid.

## How do you prepare for this scan?

---

There is no preparation for this scan, you can eat, drink and take any 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?

---

You will sit in a chair and a drop of slightly radioactive liquid will be put into each of your eyes. This will **not** make your eyes sting or affect your sight.

You will then be asked to remain sitting in the chair and a special camera will be placed in front of your eyes. Pictures will be taken every five minutes for half an hour, and then every ten minutes for another half an hour. Each picture takes one minute and it is important that you sit still during this time.

You do **not** have to remove any clothing, you will **not** be enclosed in a tunnel and you will **not** be left alone during the scan.

## How will this scan affect you?

---

You should not feel any different. The drops will not affect your ability to see so you will have no problems if you are driving home. It is not necessary for anyone to accompany you unless you so wish.

## Are there any risks from the radioactive liquid?

---

The radioactive liquid is used as sparingly as possible and the benefits of this scan far outweigh the small risk from radiation. The drops will not affect the way you feel and the substance is quickly eliminated from your eyes. The radiation dose you will receive is similar to the radiation that you receive from natural sources in a week.

## 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 **five 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 telephone number below.

**Nuclear Medicine Department: 01225 824076**