

Hepato-Biliary Scan



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

What is a Hepato-Biliary Scan?

A hepato-biliary scan is a diagnostic procedure, which looks at the function of your gall bladder. It is different to an x-ray and other types of scans. It involves an injection of a small amount of radioactive liquid and then imaging with a special camera.

How do you prepare for this scan?

It is important that you **do not eat or drink for six hours before the scan**, as instructed in your appointment letter.

If you are taking any **medication containing Morphine** it is important that you inform us as soon as possible by phoning the number at the top of the appointment letter.

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 be asked to lie on a scanning bed and special cameras will be placed over and under your abdomen. A small amount of radioactive liquid will be injected into a vein in your arm. This will not make you feel any different.

The scan is started as soon as the injection has been administered. Pictures will be taken continuously for up to 2 hours during which time it is important that you lie still and breathe normally. If you feel you will not be able to do this, please let us know as soon as possible so we can discuss this with you. You will not feel any different during the scan.

About 45 – 60 minutes after the injection, you may be asked to drink a small amount of liquid which will help assess the function of your gall bladder.

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 scan 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 injection**, all patients should sit on the toilet when passing urine.

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 radiation dose you will receive is similar to the radiation that you receive from natural sources in a year. The injection will not affect the way you feel and the radioactive substance is quickly eliminated from your body. To help speed up this process, you can drink plenty of fluids after your scan and empty 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