

# Kidney Scan



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

## What is a Kidney Scan?

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A kidney scan is a diagnostic procedure, which looks at how well your kidneys are working. It is different to an x-ray and other types of scans. It involves an injection of a small amount of radioactive liquid and imaging with a special camera.

## How do you prepare for this scan?

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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?

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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

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

## How is the scan performed?

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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 performed two to three hours after the injection. This timescale is needed for the liquid to be taken into your kidneys.

For the scan, you will then be asked to lie on a scanning bed for the images to be taken. This usually takes about 20 – 30 minutes. It is important that you lie still during this time and breathe normally. If you feel you will not be able to do this, let us know when you confirm your appointment and we can discuss this with you.

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.

## Will you need to stay in the hospital between injection and scan?

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No, you will be free to do as you please. However, if you do leave the hospital, it is very important that you attend the department in time for your scan.

## How will this scan affect you?

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You should not feel any different. 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 injection, all patients should sit on the toilet when passing urine.

## Are there any risks from the radioactive liquid?

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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 three months. The injection will not affect the way you feel and the radioactive substance is quickly eliminated from your body.

## Will the radiation affect other people?

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

## How will you get the results?

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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

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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:

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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**