

# Labelled Red Cell Scan



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

## **What is a Labelled Red Cell scan?**

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A labelled red cell scan is a diagnostic procedure, which looks at your abdomen and pelvis. It is different to an X-ray and other types of scans. It involves an injection of a small amount of radioactive liquid combined with your red cells, 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 and Neurology Outpatients Blood Test Room

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

The Neurology Outpatients Department is in Zone B, Department B9.

## How is the scan performed?

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You will go to the Neurology Outpatients Blood Test Room, where a blood sample will be taken. This blood sample will then be spun in a special machine and the red cells are taken out. These cells are combined with a small amount of a slightly radioactive liquid.

You will then need to go to the Nuclear Medicine Department a few hours later, where the combination of your red cells and the radioactive liquid will be re-injected into a vein in your arm. The amount that is re-injected is very small and will not make you feel any different. After a wait of at least 30 minutes, you will be asked to lie down on a scanning bed and a special camera will take a series of images.

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.

## Do you need to stay in the hospital between the taking of the blood sample and the scan?

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No, you will be free to do as you please, but it is important that you attend the departments at the times stated in your appointment letter.

## 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 a year. The injection will not affect the way you feel and the 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 scan, 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**