

Lymphogram



Patients must also read their appointment letter and any enclosures carefully

What is a Lymphogram?

A lymphogram is a scan of your arms or legs, depending on which of your limbs are swollen. It checks the drainage of your lymph system in those limbs. It involves an injection of a small amount of radioactive liquid and imaging with a special camera.

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?

Leg scan

You will be asked to remove shoes and socks/tights, but you will not need to remove any other clothing. You will be asked to lie on a scanning bed where you will be given an injection between the first and second toes of each foot. This injection contains a small amount of slightly radioactive liquid. The injection may sting momentarily, but it will **not** affect the way you feel.

A special camera will then be placed over your feet, and will move slowly up your legs to about your chest area taking a continuous image. This takes about 30 minutes during which time you will be asked to lie still. Taking the picture will not affect the way you feel. You will not be enclosed in a tunnel and you will not be left alone during the scan.

You will then be asked to go for a short walk and return to the department 30 minutes later when the picture will be repeated. This will not require further injections.

You will then be asked to go for another walk and return to the department four hours after the injection, when the pictures will be repeated again. Sometimes these later images are not necessary, but this cannot be decided until the morning pictures have been completed. The technician will tell at the end of the morning pictures if the later pictures need to be taken.

Arm scan

The procedure is similar to the leg scan except that the injection is given between the first and second fingers on each hand.

For both types of scan, you can eat and drink in the times between imaging.

Will you have to stay in the hospital in the time between the scans?

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 Nuclear Medicine Department in time for your next pictures to be taken.

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 week. 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?

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