

Meckels Scan



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

What is a Meckels Scan?

A Meckels scan is a diagnostic procedure, which looks at your abdomen. 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?

It is important that you follow all the instructions in your appointment letter.

You have been asked to take Ranitidine in preparation for the scan. This helps the distribution of liquid in your abdomen. It will not affect the way you feel.

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 lie on a scanning bed while a small amount of radioactive liquid is injected into a vein in your arm. This will **not** make you feel any different. A special camera will then be placed over your abdomen and pictures will be taken every five minutes for about half an hour. Each picture takes a few minutes, during which time you will be asked to lie still and breathe normally.

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

How will this scan affect you?

You should not feel any different. The injection and 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 two years. The radioactive substance is quickly eliminated from your body. You can help this process by drinking plenty of fluid for the rest of the day and emptying 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