

Octreoscan



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

What is an Octreoscan?

An octreoscan is a diagnostic procedure which 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?

If you are taking **Sandostatin**, this must be stopped for one week before the scan. If you have any concerns about this, telephone the Nuclear Medicine Department on the number at the end of this leaflet.

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 days 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?

At your first appointment time on the first appointment date, a technician will inject a small amount of radioactive liquid into a vein in your arm. This liquid will not affect the way you feel.

You will then be free to do as you want until the second appointment time that day. You will be able to leave the hospital, but it is very important that you return to the department in time for your next appointment.

The first part of your scan will take place at your second appointment time, four hours after the injection. You will be asked to lie on your back on the scanning bed. You do not have to remove any clothing but you will be asked to remove metal objects from your pockets.

Special cameras will be placed under and over you and they will move slowly along the length of your body, taking images. This procedure will take about 20-30 minutes, during which time you will need to lie still. Taking the images will not make you feel any different. You will not be enclosed in a tunnel and you will not be left alone during the scan.

You will then be free to leave the hospital until the next day, when you need to return to the department at the time stated on your appointment letter. You will be asked to lie on the scanning bed again, and the scan taken on the first day will be repeated. Additional images will be taken with the camera circling around you (usually around your abdomen) for about 60 minutes.

How will this scan affect you?

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.

After the injection on the first appointment date, you will need to make sure that you have a good fluid intake for two to three days.

For 48 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.

Will the radiation affect other people?

You are advised to **avoid non-essential contact with children and pregnant women for 48 hours** after your injection, as stated in your appointment letter. This does not mean that you should not be in the same room as these people, but try to avoid sitting too close to them.

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 **three months** 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