

## SeHCAT Scan

Patients must also read their appointment letter and any enclosures carefully



## What is a SeHCAT Scan?

A SeHCAT scan is a diagnostic procedure, which looks at the function of your bowel. It is different to an x-ray and other types of scans. It involves swallowing a capsule which contains a small amount of very slightly radioactive powder and imaging with a special camera.

## How do you prepare for this scan?

If you are taking any of the drugs listed in your appointment letter, please contact the Nuclear Medicine Department on the number at the end of this leaflet.

If you are having any procedures related to your problem in the week before the first appointment or between the two appointments, please contact the Nuclear Medicine Department on the number at the end of this leaflet.

You can eat and drink normally.

**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 have only 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 the first appointment time, you will be asked to swallow a capsule with a drink of water. This capsule contains a synthetic bile salt which is slightly radioactive.

You will return to the department three hours later and again one week later for pictures to be taken. You will be asked to lie on your back on a scanning bed and a special camera will take a picture. The picture takes five 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 during the scan.

### Will you need to stay at the hospital between swallowing the capsule and having the scan?

No, you will be free to do as you please. However, if you do leave the hospital, it is very important that you arrive back at the department in time for your next appointment.

## **How will this scan affect you?**

Neither the capsule, nor the scan should make you 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.

## **Are there any risks from the radioactive capsule?**

The radiation 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 month.

## **Will the radiation affect other people?**

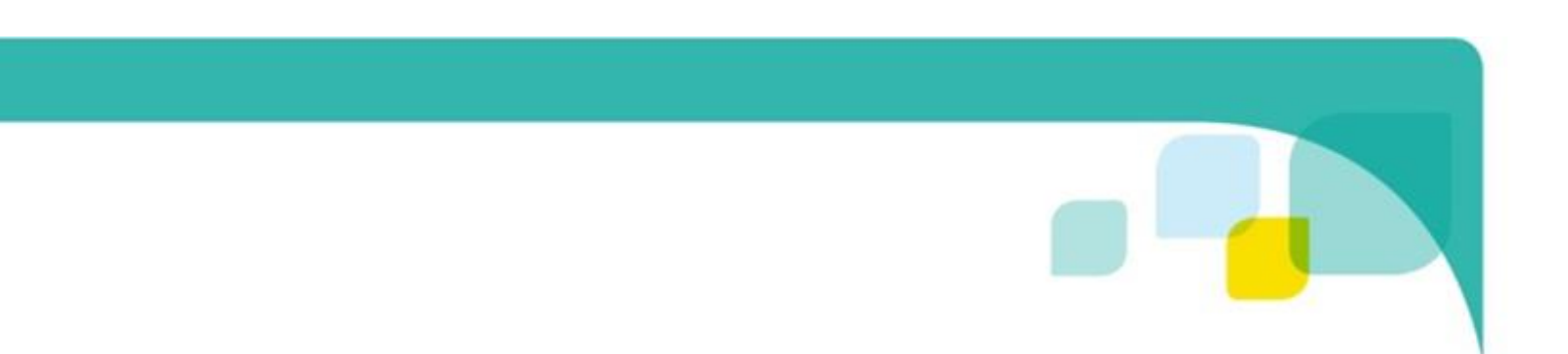
The radiation dose to people around you is low and therefore is not a cause for concern.

## **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.

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## 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 ask your nurse or doctor to telephone the Nuclear Medicine Department on your behalf, using the phone number below.

**Nuclear Medicine Department: 01225 824076**

Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust  
Combe Park, Bath BA1 3NG  
01225 428331 [www.ruh.nhs.uk](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk)

Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) if you require this leaflet in a different format, or would like to feedback your experience of the hospital.

Email [ruh-tr.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ruh-tr.pals@nhs.net) or telephone 01225 825656.