

Shunt Scan



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

What is a Shunt Scan?

A shunt scan is a diagnostic procedure, which looks at how the blood flows through your heart. 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?

There is no preparation for this scan. You can eat, drink and take your medication as normal.

You will be scanned lying on your back and you will need to lie still for up to an hour. If you feel unable to do this, please ring the Nuclear Medicine Department when you receive your appointment letter to discuss this.

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?

A small amount of radioactive liquid will be injected into a vein in your arm while you are lying down. This will **not** make you feel any different. The scan is performed straight away with you lying on the scanning bed.

First, a scan of your lungs is performed, this takes 12 minutes. Then, there is a scan of your whole body, which takes about 30 minutes. Then there is a scan at the side of your head.

You do **not usually** have to remove any clothing, but you will be asked to remove metal objects such as coins, keys, belts with buckles, and necklaces. You will **not** usually be asked to remove rings, watches or bracelets. You will **not** be enclosed in a tunnel and you will **not** be left alone during the scan.

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.

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 year. The injection will not affect the way you feel and 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.

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

