Patients must also read their appointment letter and any enclosures carefully

What is a Labelled White Cell and Bone Marrow Scan?

This is a special scan of your bones performed over two days. It is different from an x-ray and other types of scans. It involves an injection of a small amount of radioactive liquid combined with your white blood cells and imaging with a special camera on day one. There is then another injection of a small amount of radioactive liquid and imaging with a special camera on day two.
How do you prepare for this scan?
There is no preparation for this scan. You can eat, drink and take any medication as normal.

You will be scanned lying on your back and will need to lie still for about one 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 and Neurology Departments
The Nuclear Medicine Department is located in Zone C, Department C16.

The Neurology Outpatients Department is in Zone B, Department B9.
How is the scan performed?

Day One
You have been asked to attend the Neurology Outpatients Blood Test Room where a blood sample will be taken. This blood sample is then spun in a special machine and the white cells are taken out of it. These cells are combined with a small amount of a slightly radioactive liquid.

You will then attend the Nuclear Medicine Department where the combination of the white cells and slightly radioactive liquid will be re-injected into your arm. The amount of radioactive liquid is very small and will not make you feel any different.

At the time stated in your appointment letter, you will be asked to lie on your back on a scanning bed and pictures will then be taken using a special camera.

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.

Please see your appointment letter for the times at which you need to attend the Neurology Outpatients Blood Test Room and the Nuclear Medicine Department.

Day Two
You will have a second injection of a different radioactive liquid into a vein in your arm. You will then have to wait for 30 minutes before having more pictures taken. These pictures will be similar to day one, but will not take as long. The scan will not make you feel any different. 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 say in the hospital between the blood sample and the scan on day one?

No, you will be free to do as you please. However, if you do leave the hospital, it is important that you attend the departments at the times stated in your appointment letter.
How will this scan affect you?

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 receive is similar to radiation you receive from natural sources in a year. 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 7 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