

Your Child's Bone Scan



You must also read the appointment letter and any enclosures carefully

What is a Bone Scan?

A bone scan is a diagnostic procedure, which looks at the function of your child's bones. 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.

Is there any preparation for this scan?

There is no preparation for this scan.

Your child can eat, drink and take medication as normal at all times.

Your child can eat and drink while the pictures are being taken, so you may like to bring a snack and/or a drink with you, especially if you think this will help your child to stay still.

We have a DVD player so your child can watch a DVD during the scan. You may like to bring a favourite DVD with you.

Due to the radiation involved, there is a very small risk to an unborn or breast-feeding child. Therefore, it is important that you let us know in advance if your child is, or may be, **pregnant** or **breast-feeding**.

Who can come with your child for the scan?

As we only have one waiting room, we advise your child not to be accompanied by other children or pregnant women so helping to minimise the radiation 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 technician will give your child a small injection into a vein in his/her arm. The injection contains slightly radioactive liquid. This will not make your child feel any different.

Sometimes a few pictures are taken immediately after this injection. The technician will tell you on the day of the scan if this is necessary. These will take about 15 minutes.

The main scan will be performed two to three hours later. This timescale is necessary to allow the injection to be taken into the bones.

The scan is taken with your child lying on a bed and a special camera taking pictures. The number of pictures varies depending on the reason for your child's scan. Sometimes individual pictures are taken, each taking several minutes, or sometimes a camera is used which takes a continuous image for about 15-20 minutes. The technician will tell you on the day which method of scanning will be used.

Your child will not feel any different while the pictures are being taken, but it is important that he/she lies still. Your child **will not** have to remove any clothing and you will be able to stay with him/her at all times.

Why is your child offered a numbing cream?

A small amount of numbing cream can be applied to your child's arm or hand 30 minutes before the injection. This cream numbs the surface of the skin, taking away the sharp prick when the needle is inserted for the injection.

Why is your child asked to drink extra fluid?

Increasing the fluid intake between the injection and the scan can help to improve the quality of the images. The fluid also reduces your child's radiation dose by clearing the radioactive liquid from their body. Your child can use the toilet as often as is necessary.

Will your child need to stay at the hospital between the injection and the scan?

No, your child will be free to leave the department with you and he/she can eat, drink and use the toilet as normal.

If you leave the hospital, it is very important that you attend the department in time for the scan.

Why might your child be sent for x-rays?

X-rays are often useful to the radiologist when interpreting your child's bone scan and can provide important information on his/her condition. If an x-ray is required, the technician will tell you on the day of the scan. The x-ray will take place in the x-ray department.

How will the scan affect your child?

Your child should not feel any different after the injection or the scan.

For **24 hours** after the injection, your child should sit down on the toilet when passing urine to prevent any splashes.

Are there any risks from the radioactive liquid?

The radioactive liquid is used as sparingly as possible and the amount used is carefully calculated according to your child's weight. The benefits of this scan far outweigh the small risk from radiation. The radiation dose is similar to the radiation that your child receives from natural sources in a year.

Will the radiation affect other people?

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

How will you get the results of your child's scan?

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 your child for the scan.

Travelling after your child's 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 child's body on the days following the scan.

Therefore, if you are planning to travel with your child within the **seven days** following their scan, it is recommended that you carry their 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