

Your Child's DMSA Kidney Scan



**You must also read the appointment letter
and any enclosures carefully**

What is a Kidney Scan?

A kidney scan is a diagnostic procedure, which looks at how well your child's kidneys are functioning. 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 any medication as normal.

If you wish, you may bring food or drink with you for your child to have while the pictures are being taken.

We have a DVD player and a few DVDs. You may like to bring your child's favourite DVD to watch during the scan, especially if you feel that this will help your child to keep still during the scan.

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 their arm. This contains a small amount of slightly radioactive liquid. This will **not** make your child feel any different.

The scan will be performed two to three hours later. This time scale is needed to allow the injection to be taken into the kidneys.

Your child will lie on a bed with a special camera underneath. Two or three pictures will be taken, each of which takes about 10 minutes. It is important that your child lies still while the pictures are being taken.

Your child will not feel any different while the pictures are being taken. You can stay with your child at all times.

Why is your child offered 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.

Will your child need to stay in 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, use the toilet and take medication as normal. If you do leave the hospital, it is very important that you attend the department in time for the scan.

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 your child will receive is similar to the radiation that he/she 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 **seven days** following his/her 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