

Your Child's Lung Scan



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

What is a Lung Scan?

A lung scan is a diagnostic procedure, which looks at the blood supply to your child's lungs. 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.

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, 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.

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.

How is the scan performed?

While your child is lying down, a technician will give your child a small injection containing slightly radioactive liquid. This will **not** make your child feel any different.

Your child will then be asked to sit or lie by a special camera and between three to six images will be taken. Each image takes a few minutes and during this time it is important that your child stays still and breathes normally. The whole procedure takes about 20 minutes.

Your child will **not** feel any different while the pictures are being taken. He/she does **not** have to remove any clothing and will **not** be enclosed in a tunnel.

You can stay with your child at all times.

How will the scan affect your child?

The injection and scan should not affect your child in any way.

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 they receive 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