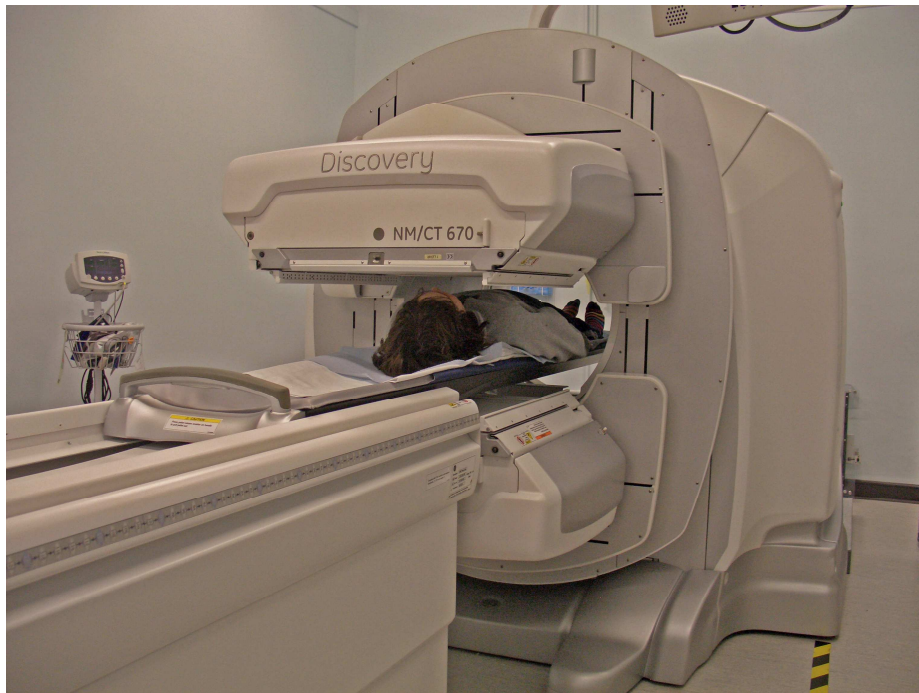


Your Child's MIBG Scan



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

What is a MIBG Scan?

An MIBG scan is a diagnostic procedure, which looks at your child's adrenal receptors, such as those seen on the adrenal glands. 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?

It is possible that some of your child's medication will affect the scan and needs to be discontinued; therefore **it is important that you phone the Nuclear Medicine Department when you receive the appointment letter to discuss their medication.**

Your child can eat, drink and use the toilet as normal at all times.

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 think this may help your child to stay still.

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 accompany your child for this scan?

As we only have one waiting room, we advise your child not to be accompanied by other children or pregnant women, to help 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 technician will ask your child to swallow two small tablets with some water in preparation for the scan. If your child is not able to swallow tablets, they can be crushed instead of swallowed whole. These tablets will **not** make your child feel any different. Your child will then be asked to stay in the waiting room for about 15-20 minutes.

Next, your child will be taken into the scanning room and asked to lie on the scanning bed. A technician will insert a butterfly needle into a vein in his/her arm, through which a small amount of slightly radioactive liquid will be infused. While this is happening, a doctor will monitor your child's blood pressure. Your child will then be asked to lie still while an image is taken using a special camera. This takes about 10 minutes.

You and your child will then be free to do as you please for a few hours, after which you should return to the department for further images to be taken. These will be taken with your child lying on the scanning bed and will take about 45 minutes.

Your child will be asked to return to the department 24 hours later (at the time stated in their appointment letter). The images taken during the previous appointment will be repeated and also some additional images will be taken where the camera moves around your child's body. This will take approximately 90 minutes.

For each of the scans, your child will not be enclosed in a tunnel and you will be able to stay with your child at all times.

How will this scan affect your child?

The injection can cause lowering of your child's blood pressure; this is why a doctor monitors your child's blood pressure. If this does happen, the technician will stop the injection.

The scan should not affect the way your child feels.

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

Will the radiation affect other people?

Your child is advised to avoid non-essential contact with other children and pregnant women for 24 hours after the injection. This does not mean your child should not be in the same room as these people, but they should try to avoid sitting too close to them. The radiation dose to other people around your child is low and is therefore not a cause for concern.

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 body 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.

The injection will not affect the way your child feels and the radioactive substance is quickly eliminated from your child's body. You can help this process by ensuring that your child drinks plenty of fluid for the rest of the day and empties their bladder more often than normal.

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 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 your scan. Therefore, if you are planning to travel within **two weeks** 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