

Your Child's Meckels Scan



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

What is a Meckels Scan?

A meckels scan is a diagnostic procedure, which looks at your child's abdomen. 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 important that your child follows the instructions in the appointment letter.

Your child has been asked to take Ranitidine in preparation for the scan. This is a common over-the-counter antacid medicine which helps the distribution of the liquid in your child's abdomen. It will **not** affect the way your child feels.

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 on the day of the scan, especially if you feel that this will help your child to stay still while the pictures are taken.

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 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 felt when the needle is inserted for the injection.

How is the scan performed?

Your child will lie on a scanning bed and a small amount of radioactive liquid will be injected into a vein in his/her arm. This will **not** make your child feel any different. A special camera will then be placed over your child's abdomen and pictures will be taken every five minutes for about half an hour.

Each picture takes a few minutes during which time your child will be asked to lie still and breathe normally.

Your child does **not** have to remove any clothing, will **not** be enclosed in a tunnel and you will be able to stay with them at all times.

How will this scan affect your child?

Your child should not feel any different.

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

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 their scan. Therefore, if you are planning to travel within **seven days** following your child's scan, it is recommended that you carry his/her 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