

Your Baby's Thyroid Scan



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

What is a Thyroid Scan?

A thyroid scan is a diagnostic procedure, which helps assess how well your baby's thyroid gland is functioning. It is different to an x-ray and other types of scans.

How do you prepare for this scan?

It is important that you follow all the instructions in the appointment letter.

Your baby should continue to take Thyroxine.

Who can accompany your child for this scan?

As we only have one waiting room, we advise you not to bring other children or pregnant women along to accompany your baby, in order to help to 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 mix a very small amount of radioactive liquid with some of your baby's milk. You will be asked to give this bottle to your baby, followed by the milk remaining in the other bottle. The radioactive milk will **not** affect your baby.

You will be in the department for approximately 45 minutes.

You will then be free to leave the department with your baby until the scan is performed approximately four hours later.

During the scan, your baby will need to lie on a bed and two images will be taken, each taking five minutes. Your baby will not feel any different whilst the images are being taken.

You can stay with your baby at all times.

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 baby's body weight. The benefits of this scan far outweigh the small risk from radiation, and the radioactive liquid is quickly eliminated from your baby's body. The radiation dose your baby will receive is similar to the radiation that he/she would receive from natural sources in a year.

Will the radiation affect other people?

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

How will you get the results of your baby'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 baby for the scan.

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

Therefore, if you are planning to travel within **seven days** following your scan, it is recommended that you carry your baby's 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