

## Your Child's Thyroid Scan



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

### **What is a Thyroid Scan?**

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

## Is there any preparation for this scan?

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If your child is taking **thyroxine** or **carbimazole**, you should telephone the Nuclear Medicine Department on the telephone number at the end of this leaflet when you receive the appointment letter.

We have a CD player/radio in the department so your child can listen to music or a story during their scan. You may wish to bring a favourite CD with you on the day of the scan, especially if you feel that this would help your child to stay still.

Your child can eat and drink as normal at all times.

## Who can accompany your child for this scan?

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As we only have one waiting room, we advise you not to bring other children or pregnant women along to accompany your child, in order to help to minimise the radiation exposure to these people.

## Finding the Nuclear Medicine Department and Children's Outpatients Department

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The Nuclear Medicine Department is located in Zone C, Department C16.

The Children's Outpatients Department is in Zone B, Department B11.

## How is the scan performed?

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The appointment letter asks you to take your child to Children's Outpatients. A nurse or doctor will apply a small amount of numbing cream or spray to a small area of skin, probably on your child's arm or hand. After a short period of time, a small venflon/cannula is inserted into a vein in this area.

You will then be asked to bring your child to the Nuclear Medicine Department where a technician will put a very small amount of radioactive liquid through the venflon. This is in preparation for the scan which will take place 20 minutes later. This timescale is needed to allow enough of the radioactive liquid to be taken into your child's thyroid gland.

This liquid will not make your child feel any different. The technician will then remove the venflon.

For the scan, your child will be asked to lie on a bed with a special camera above, and close to, his/her head and chest. Several pictures will be taken, each one takes about five minutes. It is important that your child lies still during this time.

You will be able to stay with your child at all times.

## What is a venflon/cannula?

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A venflon, or cannula, is a small plastic tube which is inserted into a vein with a small needle. The needle is then removed and the plastic tube remains in the vein allowing the technician access to the vein.

## Will inserting the venflon hurt your child?

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The nurse or doctor who inserts the venflon is specially trained in performing this procedure. The numbing cream/spray that is put on your child's arm or hand will take away the sharp prick felt when the needle is inserted.

## How will this scan affect your child?

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Your child should not feel any different.

For 24 hours after the test, your child should sit on the toilet when passing urine (unless they are using nappies).

## Are there any risks from the radioactive liquid?

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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 he/she would 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 his/her body.

## Will the radiation affect other people?

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

## How will you get the results of your child's scan?

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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

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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 within **seven days** following your scan, it is recommended that you carry your child's appointment letter to show to officials if necessary.

## Additional Information:

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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**