

# Your Child's MAG3 Kidney Scan

You must also read the appointment letter and any enclosures carefully



## What is a Kidney Scan?

A kidney scan (also known as a MAG3 scan) is a diagnostic procedure, which looks at how well your child's kidneys are functioning. 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 with regard to drinking extra fluid.** This ensures that your child is well hydrated in preparation for the diuretic injection used during the scan.

Your child can eat, drink and take medication as normal.

You may want to bring a drink and/or snack with you for your child to have during the scan, especially if you feel this will help your child to stay still. We have a DVD player so you may like to bring your child's favourite DVD with you to watch during the scan.

It is important that you let us know in advance if your child is, or may be, **pregnant** or **breast-feeding** – due to the radiation involved, there is a very small risk to an unborn or breast-feeding child. (Note: this leaflet is given to children up to the age of 18).



## Who can come with your child for this scan?

As we have only one waiting room, we advise your child not to be accompanied by other children or pregnant women to help to minimise the radiation exposure to these people.

## Finding the Departments

The Clinical Imaging and Measurement Department is located in Zone C, Department C16.

## How is the scan performed?

Your child will lie on a scanning bed which will have a special camera placed under it. 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. The images will then be taken at frequent intervals for up to 40 minutes. It is important that your child lies still during this time and breathes normally. He/she will **not** feel any different during the scan.

After about 15 minutes, your child will be given another small injection. This injection contains a small amount of a diuretic. This will not make your child feel any different but he/she may, towards the end of the scan, feel the need to pass urine.

When the scan has finished, your child will be asked to go to the toilet to empty their bladder. Your child will then return to the scanning room where the technician will sit your child on a chair to take one more picture. This picture takes one minute.

Sometimes it is necessary for your child to have a picture taken whilst they are emptying their bladder. If this is needed, the technician will explain why and how it is performed on the day of the scan.

Your child will **not** have to remove any clothing for most of the scan, and you can stay with your child at all times.

### 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 when the needle is inserted for the injection.

### Will your child have an injection of a diuretic during the scan?

A diuretic is a substance that makes the kidneys work a little faster. This helps us to see how well your child's kidneys are emptying into the bladder and this can give information that may be helpful to the doctor.

### How will the scan affect your child?

This scan will not make your child feel any different.

For **24 hours** after the scan, 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 he/she would 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.

## Information for other hospitals

Within the **four days** following your child's scan:

If your child is admitted to a hospital (other than the RUH), or if they are cared for by a healthcare worker at home, please ask the healthcare worker to contact the RUH Clinical Imaging and Measurement department. Their employer might need to register with the Health and Safety Executive to show that their staff are aware of the small amount of radioactivity that is present for a few days after the scan.



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## 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 Clinical Imaging and Measurement Department using the phone number below:

**Clinical Imaging and Measurement: 01225 824080**

Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust  
Combe Park, Bath BA1 3NG  
01225 428331 [www.ruh.nhs.uk](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk)

Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) if you require this leaflet in a different format, or would like to feedback your experience of the hospital.

Email [ruh-tr.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ruh-tr.pals@nhs.net) or telephone 01225 825656.