

Nuclear Medicine Meckel's Scan

Patient Information Sheet

A Meckel's scan is a diagnostic procedure, to investigate Meckel's Diverticulum. This is a small common abnormality in the small intestine present at birth which can sometimes cause ulcers and bleeding.

Preparation for your child's appointment

Please call us with your child's weight the week before the appointment.

It is important that your child follows the instructions in the appointment letter.

- Your child must not eat or drink for **6 hours** before the appointment except plain water.
- In the **24 hour** period before the appointment encourage your child to drink plenty of fluids (preferably water). This will make giving the injection easier.
- Please ensure they wear or bring clothes that do not contain metal clips or zips.

Your child can use the toilet as often as they need to. Please bring spare nappies if used.

We have a DVD player and a selection of DVDs. You may like to bring your child's favourite DVD to watch, especially if you feel that this will help your child to keep still during the scan. For younger children, please feel free to bring any small item which may help them feel more relaxed, such as a teddy, small blanket or a pacifier (dummy).

Are there any risks from the radioactive tracer?

The radioactive tracer is used as sparingly as possible and the dose given is based on your child's weight. The benefits of this scan far outweigh the small risk from radiation.

The radiation dose your child will receive could be up to the radiation received from natural sources in **2 years**.

Your child's urine will be radioactive for **24 hours after injection**. Drinking plenty of fluids and emptying their bladder or changing their nappy regularly will help to remove the radiation. Older children should sit on the toilet when passing urine. This is to make sure that all the urine gets properly flushed down the toilet.

There are no restrictions for your child spending time with adults after their scan; however, we suggest other children and pregnant women do not attend the appointment due to the radiation involved. It is fine for you to remain with your child during their scan. You will receive a very small radiation dose if you are close to your child during this time. This is similar to the radiation dose received from natural sources over a few days.

Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

If your child is female and over 12 years old they will be asked to complete a form confirming that they are not pregnant or breastfeeding.

If your child has male healthcare records and was registered female at birth, please talk to the technologist at your appointment so that they can rule out the possibility of pregnancy. This information will not be recorded or shared without your consent

How is the scan performed?

Your child's injection will be given through a small plastic tube in a vein (cannula)

- Cannulation for younger children will be in Children's Outpatients B11.
- Cannulation for older children will be in Clinical Imaging and Measurement.

Numbing cream or spray will be applied to a small area of skin on your child's arm or hand. After a short period of time, a small cannula is inserted into a vein in this area.

- Your child will lie on the scanning bed and will then have a small amount of radioactive liquid injected into the cannula. This will not make them feel any different.
- The gamma camera will then be placed over their abdomen and pictures will be taken continuously for 1 hour. They must lie still but they can breathe normally.
- They may also have another scan on the same scanner where the gamma camera will move very slowly around them taking pictures continuously. This will take around 35 minutes and is followed by a CT scan which will take less than 2 minutes.

After your scan

Results

Results will be sent to the doctor or specialist who referred you for the scan in 2/3 weeks.

Travelling after your scan

Some major event/ transport venues have very sensitive radiation detectors. These detectors could be triggered by the small amount of radioactivity remaining in your body on the days following your scan. If you're planning to travel within **7 days** following your scan, we recommend that you carry your appointment letter with you.

Information for other hospitals or care homes

*Within the **4 days** following your scan:*

If you are admitted to a care home or hospital (other than the RUH), or if you are cared for by a healthcare worker in your home, please ask them 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 your scan. If you have any concerns or questions about your scan, or you need this information in another format such as larger print, please call: **01225 824080**

Clinical Imaging and Measurement Department
Zone B, Department B58
Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust
Combe Park, Bath, BA1 3NG
01225 824080 | www.ruh.nhs.uk

Please contact the Patient Support and Complaints Team (PSCT) if you would like to feedback your experience of the hospital. Email ruh-tr.psct@nhs.net or telephone **01225 825656**