

Nuclear Medicine **DCG Scan**

Patient Information Sheet

A DCG eye scan (also known as a lacrimal dacryoscintigram) is a diagnostic procedure which looks at the drainage of your tear ducts using a very slightly radioactive liquid.

Preparation for your appointment

There is no preparation necessary for this scan. You may eat and take your medication as normal.

If possible, please come to your appointment alone as we can only accommodate a small number of people in our waiting room.

Are there any risks from the radioactive tracer?

The radioactive tracer is used as sparingly as possible and the benefits of this scan far outweigh the small risk from radiation. The radiation dose you will receive is similar to the radiation received from natural sources in a week.

There are no restrictions for spending time with others after your scan, as the radiation dose to other people is low and not a cause for concern.

You should use the toilet sitting down for **24 hours** to avoid splashes as your urine will be slightly radioactive.

Breastfeeding

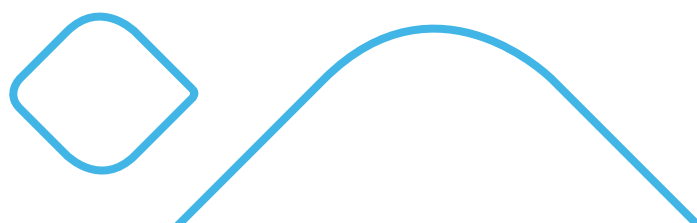
Let us know in advance if you are breastfeeding.

This is important because of the small risk of childhood cancer from the radiation that we use.

How is the scan performed?

- You will sit in a chair and a drop of slightly radioactive liquid will be put into each of your eyes. This will not cause stinging or affect your sight.
- You will be asked to remain sitting while you rest your forehead on a gamma camera, which is placed in front of you.
- Pictures will be taken every 5 minutes for 30 minutes and then every 10 minutes for another 30 minutes, making the **total scan time 1 hour**.
 - Each picture takes one minute and it is important that you sit still during this time.

The drops will not make you feel any different and will not affect your ability to drive home.



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 **5 days** following your scan, we recommend that you carry your appointment letter with you.

Information for other hospitals or care homes

*Within the **four 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 telephone: **01225 824080**

Clinical Imaging and Measurement Department
Zone C, Department C16
Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust
Combe Park, Bath, BA1 3NG
01225 824080 | www.ruh.nhs.uk

Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) if you would like to feedback your experience of the hospital. Email ruh-tr.pals@nhs.net or telephone **01225 825656**

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