

# Nuclear Medicine **Octreoscan**

## Patient Information Sheet

An octreoscan is a diagnostic procedure to check for the presence of neuroendocrine tumours. It involves an injection of a small amount of radioactive tracer and imaging using a gamma camera and CT scanner (using x-rays).

### Preparation for your appointment

If you are taking a medication called **Sandostatin**, you must **stop taking this 1 week** before your scan. If you have any concerns about this, please call the department to discuss.

**In the 24 hour period before your appointment** drink plenty of fluids (preferably water). This will make giving the injection easier. You can use the toilet as often as you need to.

Wear or bring clothes that **do not contain metal clips or zips. ALL metal objects such as coins, keys, belts, jewellery and any clothing with metal must be removed before the scan.**

*If possible, please come to your appointment alone as we have a small 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 **7 years**. It is recommended that after your scan you drink plenty of fluids for the next 2-3 days to help remove the radiation from your body faster.

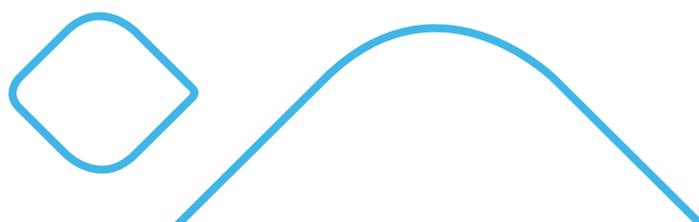
Please avoid long times of close contact with other adults for **48 hours** after your injection. You may sit in the same room or car but avoid sitting directly next to others. Children and pregnant women are at a higher risk from radiation so we ask you avoid close contact for **5 days** after your injection.

**For 48 hours after your appointment** you should sit on the toilet when passing urine. This is to make sure that all the urine gets properly flushed down the toilet as it will be slightly radioactive.

### Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

**Let us know in advance if you may be pregnant or breastfeeding.** This is important because of the small risk of childhood cancer from the radiation that we use.

If you have male healthcare records and were 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.



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## How is the scan performed?

### Day 1

- A cannula (small plastic tube) will be placed into a vein in your arm.
- The radioactive tracer will be injected through the cannula. This tracer will not affect the way you feel.
- You can leave the department, **returning for your scan 4 hours later**.
- The scan will take up to **30 minutes**. You will lie on your back on the scanner bed as the gamma camera moves over you taking pictures continuously.

### Day 2

You will be asked to return for another **scan 24 hours later** (please refer to the time given your appointment letter). All metal must be removed from your clothing.

- The images taken during the first scan will be repeated.
- Then the gamma camera moves in a circle around your chest, abdomen and pelvis for up to **90 minutes** with a **2 minute** CT scan at the end.

Please use the toilet beforehand and we will make you as comfortable as possible before starting. If you would like to listen to some music, radio or even watch a film on DVD, please let us know.

## 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 **3 months** following your scan, we recommend that you carry your appointment letter with you.

## Information for other hospitals or care homes

*Within the **2 months** 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 C, Department C16  
Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust  
Combe Park, Bath, BA1 3NG  
01225 824080 | [www.ruh.nhs.uk](http://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](mailto:ruh-tr.pals@nhs.net) or telephone **01225 825656**

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