



Temple Street

CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL



Welcome to Nuclear Medicine

Information For Parents and Carers

Radiology Department

01 878 4262

Monday - Friday 8am-4pm

Main Hospital Number

01878 4200



What is Nuclear Medicine ?

A nuclear medicine scan involves administering a small dose of a radioactive material, called a radioisotope, to your child.

The radioisotope is given by injection into your child's bloodstream. Blood then transports the radioisotope to the organ/system that is to be investigated. Your child is imaged using a gamma camera, which detects the radioisotope in your child's system.

Radioisotopes fade with time and are naturally removed from the body via the urine. After 24 hours, the radioisotope will have faded to a safe and negligible level.



How Long Will the Scan Last?

The scan will take between 20 minutes and 1 hour.



What Will Happen When We Arrive in the X-ray Department ?

Depending on the type of scan your child will be having, they may be scanned immediately after the injection or there will be an interval of up to 3 hours between the injection and the scan, this will give the radioisotope a chance to reach the area to be scanned. The appointment letter will give a closer estimate of the time interval for the particular scan your child is having. The length of time the scan takes varies, but typically they are between 20 minutes and 1 hour.

For certain scans your child may require sedation and will have to fast. If fasting is required, there will be details regarding fasting times and the sedation in your appointment letter.

It is advisable not to bring other children with you to the department on the day of the scan as it can be a long day.

Will My Child Have To Lie Still During The Scan ?

Yes, your child will need to lie still. As this is difficult for younger children we give sedation to make them sleepy and allow them lie in one position. If your child is due to have sedation you will be told this in an explanatory letter which will be sent to you with your appointment.

How is my Child Given Sedation?

A medicine called chloral hydrate will be given to your child as a drink.

Your child will be assessed by a member of our specialist nursing team to make sure they are suitable for sedation. You can ask them any question you may have.

IMPORTANT

Please contact the nursing team on

01 878 4551 or 01 878 4262

If your child is unwell or has breathing problems coming up to their appointment as they may not be suitable for sedation until they are feeling better.

Will My Child Have To Fast ?

If your child is to be given sedation it is important that they fast before hand. When fasting your child will not be allowed to eat or drink anything.

In your appointment letter you will be given instructions on how long your child must fast.

What Can We Do After the Injection While Waiting For The Scan ?

If you have to wait a few hours after the injection for your child's scan you can leave the x-ray department and will be given a time to return.

If your child is not fasting you should encourage them to drink plenty of fluids and empty their bladder frequently. This will help to remove the radioisotope from their body.

What Happens After the Scan?

Once the scan is finished your child may wake up immediately, if not we will allow them to sleep for a little while in the waiting area.

What Should I Do When I Bring My Child Home

If your child wears nappies it is important that for the first 24hrs after the injection you double bag the nappies before throwing them out in the normal way.

If your child has been given sedation, the nurse will explain what you must do when you go home.

What If I Am Pregnant ?

If There Is **ANY** Possibility That Your Child's Mother or Child Minder Is Pregnant She Should **NOT ATTEND** The Scan Appointment With Your Child.

Please Arrange For Someone Else To Come With Your Child.

Due to the radioactiveness of the radioisotope it is recommended that any pregnant woman keep **6 FOOT / 2 METRES** From Your Child For **24 HRS** After Your Child's Injection.

If there is someone at home who is pregnant please mention this to the radiographer who is performing the scan and they will give you specific advice on what to do.



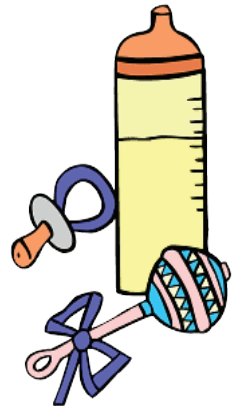
What If My Child is Not Fasting ?

If your child is not fasting it is important that you give them plenty of fluids and empty their bladder frequently. This will help them remove the radioactive fluid from their body.



What Should I Bring to The Hospital ?

Please bring your child's buggy, nappies, feeds and other items your child may need for his/her comfort.



Instructions For Parents of Children Who Have Received Sedation

The medicine will remain in your child's body for up to 24 hours. Your child may be more sleepy than usual. Please read and follow the instructions below.

- ★ Your child will need to be cared for by a responsible adult for 24 hours after leaving the hospital.
- ★ Allow your child to sleep but remember to wake him/her up every 3-4 hours for a drink. It is normal for your child to have a poor appetite while they are sleepy.
- ★ Do not leave your child unattended.
- ★ Make sure your child is strapped into their car seat or buggy.
- ★ Do not allow your child to walk alone for 24 hours, they may be unsteady.
- ★ In the evening try to keep your child awake to help re establish their bedtime routine.
- ★ If your child wears nappies, it is important for 24 hours after the injection that each nappy is double bagged before it is thrown out.

Hints For Parents

- ★ The scan can last for some time. Your child may enjoy listening to their MP3 if they are not sedated.
- ★ During the time between your child's injection and scan you and your child may not need to stay in the hospital.
- ★ If your child is having sedation do not allow them sleep between the injection and their scan.
- ★ It is important that you follow the guidelines you were given about your child's fasting. If your child is not fasting the scan may be cancelled.
- ★ Please prepare your child for an injection.
- ★ As it can be a long day in the hospital it is not advisable to bring along other children.
- ★ Bring along a colouring book, colouring pencils and this booklet for your child to colour in.



Peggy's Visit to Nuclear Medicine



Peggy is having magic
cream put on her skin
before the magic
straw is put into
her arm.



Here is Peggy
having her pictures
taken with our special
camera.



The nurse is giving
Peggy her sleepy
medicine



Look at Peggy. She is having her picture taken.



Peggy is awake now
after her pictures and
she is ready to go
home. Can you see her
sticker?

I SPY

How many things on the list below can you find as you are waiting for your scan

Secretary	Computer	Nurse
Sink	Mirror	Radiographer
Doctor	Window	Fire Extinguisher
Fire Escape	Computer	Blue Aprons
White Board	Fridge	Paper Towel
Hand Gel	Bin	Couch
Clip Board	Medicine	Weighing Scales
Cream	Camera	Picture of Sunset
Hen	Chicken	Giraffe
Penguins	Radiator	Baby Picture
Height Chart	Height Ruler	Blue Seats
XRays Box	X Rays	Toilet
Fire Escape	Chair	Baby Changing Mat
Recycle Box	Room 2 Sign	Room Light
Red Drawers	Air Freshener	Folder
Wheel Chair	Buggy	Gloves

Important Information

If your child is unwell and you can not attend please contact the xray department.

If your appointment letter does not state your child will receive sedation and you think they will be unable to co-operate with staff please contact the department to discuss what can be done for your child.

If you have any questions about your child's test please feel free to contact the department

Monday -Friday
8.30am - 5pm
01 878 4262 or 01 878 4264

If you have any questions about sedation please contact the Radiology Nurse on 01 878 4551/ 01878 4828

At weekends or evenings contact the Emergency Department 01 878 4200 or your GP

Please remember to wash your hands or use hand gel when visiting the Hospital

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