



You will meet your radiographer in the nuclear medicine prep room.

We need to put a sparkly medicine (dye) into your body. This will probably be by an injection.



The sparkly medicine will go to the part of your body which is being examined and when we take pictures on the nuclear medicine camera, it will show up on the computer.



You need to lie still on the bed so that your pictures aren't blurry.



You can watch a DVD when you are lying on the bed.

FACTS ABOUT NUCLEAR MEDICINE



- Nuclear Medicine uses a special dye or 'sparkly medicine' which can only be seen with a special camera.

- The dye is radioactive. This means that atoms in the dye have too much energy. They get rid of their energy in bursts called gamma rays. You can't feel or see gamma rays and you won't glow in the dark!

- Our camera has a big crystal inside of it which can detect and take images of the gamma rays inside you.

- Radioactivity is all around us - it comes from the sun, from some types of rocks and even from bananas!



Come for your Nuclear Medicine Scan

DMSA

At The Imaging Department

Place Royal Hospital for Children and Young People
Little France
Edinburgh
EH16 4SA



SCAN and Find more
information about
Scans and X-rays



Information for parents and carers -

What is a **DMSA – Nuclear Medicine Scan?**

The scan DMSA, is named after the chemical 'de mercapto succinic acid'

This is a test that looks at the structure and location of the kidneys. A small dose of radioactive liquid is injected into a vein, which will allow us to take pictures of the body. The small risk from the test is outweighed by the information gained by the scan. A doctor will have checked the request to make sure this is the best test to undergo.

What will the test involve?

When you arrive you will meet the radiographer and radiography assistant. They will explain the test, and there will be an opportunity to ask questions. Your child will be weighed and then will be given a small injection of radioactive liquid. If your child has a favourite toy, you may wish to bring it with you for comfort and distraction.

There needs to be a delay between the injection and the pictures being taken. **This can be anything from 2 to 4 hours.** The radiographer will tell you what time to come back to the department for the pictures. We will take 2 different sets of pictures, with your child lying still on the bed. Your child will not need to undress for this. They can watch a DVD, listen to music, or we have distraction toys for younger children. You can stay with your child during the test, and help to keep them still. It will take about 20 minutes to take the images.

Will the test hurt?

Your child will not feel any discomfort from the radioactive liquid or imaging process. However an injection is necessary for this examination. The needle used for the injection is very small, and will only be in for a very short time.

How long will it take?

It could take up to 5 hours as the test requires a timed delay between the injection and imaging. You will be allowed to leave the department after the injection. The radiographer will give you a time to return for imaging. Please ensure that you make appropriate arrangements for other children.

For more information about the Imaging Department and your scan.

Please visit www.children.nhsllothian.scot/the-rhcpy

You can scan the QR code on the front of this leaflet

What Preparation is required ?

There is no specific preparation for this test.

Once the test is over, you will be able to leave the department. Your child should avoid sharing a bath with other children on the night of the test. Any wet nappies should be disposed of in an outside bin. Your child can return to school or nursery the following day.

Precautions if you are pregnant or breast feeding. If you are pregnant, it would be best if someone else could accompany you and your child for the test. We would recommend avoiding close contact (prolonged cuddles) for 24 hours after administration of the radioactivity. Breast feeding can continue as normal. If you plan to accompany your child during a scan and are pregnant or suspect you may be pregnant, please inform us in advance.

What if my child is taking medication?

Do not stop taking any prescribed medications. The scan will not affect the usefulness of the drug. **However, if your child currently has or gets a urine tract infection (UTI) between now and the examination please call the Imaging Department on 0131 312 0896 as we may need to rearrange the appointment. If you have any questions about this please contact the department.**

How will I get the results of the test?

The result will be sent to the doctor who asked for this test, normally within 7-10 days. The doctor who has asked for the test will then send you a follow-up appointment to discuss your results with them.

What if I do not speak English?

If you need help with the English language please phone **0131 312 0896** as soon as possible and we can arrange an interpreter for you.

How do I get to Nuclear Medicine.

Nuclear Medicine Department is in the Imaging Department on the ground floor. Book in for your appointment at the Imaging Department reception.

Public Transport and Travel Information.

Bus details available from:

Lothian Buses on 0131 555 6363 or www.lothianbuses.co.uk

Traveline Scotland on 08712 002 233 or www.travelinescotland.com

Train details available from:

National Rail Enquiries on 03457 484 950 or www.nationalrail.co.uk

Keeping your appointment - If you cannot keep your appointment, or have been given one that is unsuitable, please change it by phoning the number on your appointment letter. Your call will give someone else the chance to be seen and will help us keep waiting times to a minimum.