



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

*Gastric Emptying – solid scan*

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 **Gastric Emptying – solid scan**

This is a test that looks at how quickly the stomach empties. A small dose of radioactive liquid is given to your child to eat with some food. The food passes through the stomach and digestive system, allowing 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. The radiographer will then prepare the food for your child. They will be asked to eat the food as quickly as possible to avoid delay in imaging. We will start to take the pictures straightaway. Your child will lie on our bed with the gamma camera underneath. The first picture will take 15 minutes. We will then take more pictures at set intervals over the next two hours.

Your child will need to lie still on the bed during imaging. 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 keep them still.

## Will the test hurt?

Your child will not feel any discomfort from the radioactive liquid or imaging process.

## How long will it take?

**The test will take around three hours.**

Please ensure that you make appropriate arrangements for other children.

## What if my child is taking medication?

Do not stop taking any prescribed medications. The scan will not affect the usefulness of the drug. 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 Preparation is required ?

**Your child is required to have an empty stomach for this test**

**Please ensure your child has nothing to eat or drink for 6 hours prior to your scan appointment time.**

This test involves your child eating a small amount of radioactive liquid mixed with their food. **Please bring two Weetabix and 100mls milk.** If your child has any food intolerances please call us to discuss a suitable alternative.

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 soiled 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.

## For more information about the Imaging Department and your scan.

Please visit [www.children.nhsllothian.scot/the-rhccp](http://www.children.nhsllothian.scot/the-rhccp)

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

## 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](http://www.lothianbuses.co.uk)

Traveline Scotland on 08712 002 233 or [www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com)

Train details available from:

National Rail Enquiries on 03457 484 950 or [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://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.