

# Radioisotope scan (children)

## Nuclear Medicine Department Patient Information Leaflet

### Introduction

Your doctor has suggested that your child has a radioisotope scan. This leaflet has been compiled to give you information about this.

### What is a radioisotope scan?

It is a test in which a small amount of radioactive substance is used to obtain pictures of how parts of the body are functioning, using a special 'gamma' camera.

### What alternatives are there?

There may be an alternative test your child can have. Your consultant will be able to discuss this with you. It is your decision as to whether your child has this scan.

### How do I prepare my child for the test?

Unless the appointment letter tells you otherwise, your child can eat and drink as normal before the test.

## What is involved?

The radioactive substance is injected into a vein in your child's arm and then, after a set time delay (as stated in your appointment letter), pictures are taken using a gamma camera which show how the substance has been distributed by your child's body.

The delay is necessary to allow the substance to be properly absorbed. Your child will not need to undress for the scan but will have to lie fairly still on a couch whilst the pictures are taken.

## Is the injection dangerous?

No. The radiation dose is very low, about the same as for an ordinary X-ray and the injection will not make your child ill or sleepy. There are no side effects or discomfort associated with the scan.

However, since the injection is radioactive, your child will be slightly radioactive for about 24 hours. It is therefore wise for your child to avoid close contact with other children or anyone who could be pregnant. After 24 hours they no longer need to do this as the substance will have passed out of their body.

## What should they do after the scan?

They can eat and drink normally after the scan.

## How do I get the results?

The results will be sent to your child's hospital consultant and you should be sent an appointment for them to see their consultant in the clinic to discuss these results. If you do not have a follow up appointment or you do not hear anything within one month, please contact the consultant's secretary via the hospital switchboard on 01384 456111.

If your child was referred for the scan by their GP, the results will be sent back to them within two weeks.

**In radiology departments, every effort is made to keep radiation doses low. The radiation doses from X-ray examinations or isotope scans are small in relation to those we receive from natural background radiation. You should make your doctor aware of any other recent X-rays or scans your child has had, in case they make further examinations unnecessary.**

If you have any questions, or if there is anything you do not understand about this leaflet, please contact:

Nuclear Medicine Department on 01384 456111 ext 2335

If your child's appointment date is not convenient, please contact the Outpatient Booking Team on 01384 365100 (8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday).

**This leaflet can be made available in large print, audio version and in other languages, please call 0800 0730510**

ਜੇਕਰ ਇਹ ਲੀਫਲੈੱਟ (ਛੋਟਾ ਇਸਤਿਹਾਰ) ਤੁਸੀਂ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ (ਪੰਜਾਬੀ) ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰ ਕੇ ਪੇਸ਼ੰਟ ਇੰਫਰਮੇਸ਼ਨ ਕੋ-ਆਰਡੀਨੇਟਰ ਨਾਲ **0800 0730510** ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

यदि आपको यह दस्तावेज़ अपनी भाषा में चाहिए तो पेशन्ट इनफ़रमेशन को-आर्डिनेटर को टैलीफ़ोन नम्बर **0800 0730510** पर फ़ोन करें।

જો તમને આ પત્રિકા તમારી પોતાની ભાષા (ગુજરાતી)માં જોઈતી હોય, તો કૃપા કરીને પેશન્ટ ઈન્ફોર્મેશન કો-ઓર્ડિનેટરનો **0800 0730510** પર સંપર્ક કરો.

আপনি যদি এই প্রচারপত্রটি আপনার নিজের ভাষায় পেতে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে পেশেন্ট ইনফরমেশন কো-অর্ডিনেটরের সাথে **0800 0730510** এই নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করুন।

إذا كنت ترغب هذه الوريقة مترجمة بلغتك الاصلية ( اللغة العربية ) , فرجاء ا اتصل بمنسق المعلومات للمريض  
**0800 0730510** على التلفون **Information Co-ordinator**

حسب ضرورت اس ایف سائٹ کو اپنی زبان (اوردو) میں حاصل کرنے کے لیے ریلوہ رہائی ٹیلیفون نمبر **0800 0730510** پر ویٹ انفرمیشن کو-آورڈینٹر (مریضوں کے لیے معلومات کی فراہمی کے سلسلے میں) سے رابطہ حاصل کریں۔