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Royal Brompton & Harefield **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

Your nuclear medicine Lung V/Q SPECT CT scan – appointment information

Points to remember

- Please telephone us on 01895 828 880 as soon as you receive this letter if you need to cancel or change the appointment date of your scan.
- You do not need to make any special preparations for this scan, but please drink plenty of fluids (such as water) before and after the injection.

What is a Lung V/Q SPECT CT scan?

This is a type of nuclear medicine scan where the images or pictures from two different types of scans are combined to provide information about the blood and air supply to your lungs.

SPECT (single photon emission computed tomography) is a scan that uses a small amount of radiation and a special camera to create 3D images.

A CT (computed tomography) scan uses X-ray to create images.

About your Lung V/Q SPECT CT scan

To have your SPECT scan, you lie on a scanning couch and the camera moves around your body. Before it starts, you will be given an injection containing a tracer. This is a substance with a small amount of radioactivity to highlight the blood supply to your lungs in the images we take.

During the scan, you will be asked to breathe in a harmless gas using a mouthpiece. This gas helps us see how the air supply moves around your lungs. After the SPECT scan, you will have the CT scan. The CT scan is the doughnut-shaped part of the same scanning machine. You will be asked to lie in one position for about three to five minutes as the scanning couch moves in and out of the scanner. Your appointment with us will last around one hour.

Is there any risk from the radiation?

The amount of radiation used is small and kept to a minimum. We believe that the benefits of having the test far outweigh any risks. To avoid exposing children unnecessarily to radiation, please do not bring them with you to the department.

Female patients

If you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant, or are breastfeeding please let us know prior to attending for your appointment.

Diabetics

You do not need to change your diet or treatment. Please bring your insulin and any snacks as needed.

Are there any side effects?

The substance we give you does not have any side effects. It will not make you sleepy or stop you from driving a car.

After your scan

You can eat and drink as usual and continue with your normal daily activities after your scan. You may go anywhere you like, but please try to avoid long periods of close contact with children for the next 24 hours. This is to avoid exposing them to unnecessary radiation.

Results

We will send the results of your scan to the hospital consultant who asked for the test.

Additional information

Please note that our nuclear medicine department scans many people every day. We try to keep to your appointment time as closely as possible, but should you be late or if there is an emergency at the hospital, it may not be possible to perform your scan immediately.

Hospital transport

If you need hospital transport to get to us, please ask your GP to arrange this.

Private patients

If you are a private patient please bring your private insurance details to your appointment, otherwise please pay your invoice on the day of your scan.

How to find us

The nuclear medicine department is in the ANZAC Centre, ground floor, Harefield Hospital.

Useful contacts

If you have any questions about your scan, please call us on 01895 828 880, Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.