

Harefield Hospital

# Your nuclear medicine bone scan





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## Points to remember

- If you want to cancel or change the date of your scan, please telephone us on **01895 828 880** as soon as you receive your appointment letter (sent together with this leaflet).
- If you are wearing a plaster cast, please contact us to discuss this.
- There is no special preparation for this scan but please remember to drink plenty of fluid before and after the injection.

## What is nuclear medicine?

Nuclear medicine is a special way of taking images of your body. Before we can take these images, we need to give you an injection containing a tracer. This is a substance with a small amount of radioactivity that highlights the part of the body we need to see in more detail.

## About your bone scan

- This scan looks at the activity in your bones. We will give you a tracer injection and wait two and a half hours before we do your scan.
- You will be asked to drink at least six cups of any fluid between the time of injection and your scan. You may eat between the injection and the scan and take any medication, if you wish.

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- You will lie on the scanner couch; the camera will pass over your whole body while it takes images for about 30 minutes. It is important that you keep still during this time.

There is a possibility that extra images may be taken. Please see the additional leaflet about SPECT-CT scan.

## How long will the appointment take?

You will be with us for about three and a half hours to complete the test. If additional images are taken, then an extra 30 minutes is needed.

## 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. However, to avoid exposing children unnecessarily to radiation, please do not bring them with you to the department. Please ask if you have any questions.

## Female patients

You should not have this scan if you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant, or are breastfeeding.

## 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 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 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.

## Contact us

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

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If you have concerns about any aspect of the service you have received in hospital and feel unable to talk to those people responsible for your care, call the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01895 826 572 or email [pals@rbht.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@rbht.nhs.uk). This is a confidential service.



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إذا كنت ترغب في الحصول على ترجمة فورية لمضمون هذه الوثيقة إلى اللغة العربية، يرجى منك الاتصال بأحد مستخدمينا بجناح المصلحة التي يتم فيها استشفائك. أحد موظفينا سيسعى لترتيب إجراءات الترجمة وإتمامها في الوقت المناسب لك.

Brosurteki bilginin Türkçe tercumesi için tedavi görüyor olduğunuz bölüme basurunuz. Bölüm personeli tercümenin gerçekleşmesini en kısa zamanda ayarlayacaktır.

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