

## 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.

## Queries

If you have any queries about your scan or would like to change your appointment date, please telephone us on **020 7351 8666**. If the line is busy and you are diverted to an answering machine, please leave a message and telephone number and we will get in touch with you as soon as possible.

## How to find us

The Nuclear Medicine department is on level 3 Chelsea Wing. From the main entrance in Sydney Wing please go to level 3 and follow signs for the bridge linking the two wings.

### • Parking

Very limited pay and display parking is available on site. There are disabled parking spaces in Cale Street, Foulis Terrace and in Sydney Wing car park. Very little public parking is available in the neighbouring streets. We strongly recommend that you use public transport if at all possible.

### • Underground

The nearest underground station is South Kensington (Piccadilly, District and Circle Lines). Royal Brompton Hospital is a five to ten minute walk away.

### • Buses

The following buses serve the area:  
No's 14, 345 and 49 along Fulham Road  
No's 11, 19, 22 and 319 on King's Road  
No 211 on Sydney Street.

## Ambulance

If you need an ambulance to bring you to your appointment, please ask your family doctor to arrange this.

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Royal Brompton Hospital  
Sydney Street  
London  
SW3 6NP  
tel: 020 7352 8121

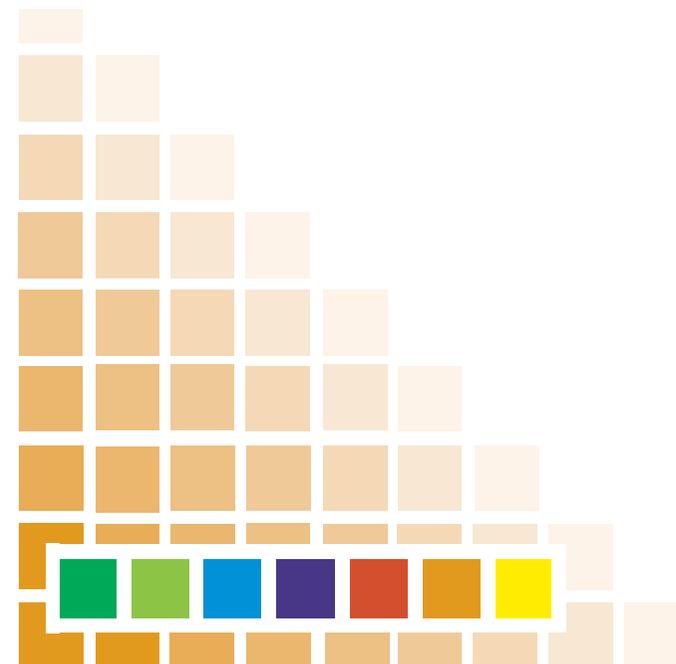
Harefield Hospital  
Hill End Road  
Harefield  
Middlesex  
UB9 6JH  
tel: 01895 823 737

minicom: 01895 828 534  
website: [www.rbht.nhs.uk](http://www.rbht.nhs.uk)

October 2006

Royal Brompton Hospital

# Your Nuclear Medicine Gallium Scan



## Appointment information

Name: .....

Date 1: .....

Time 1: .....

Date 2: .....

Time 2: .....

Hospital: **Royal Brompton Hospital**

## Points to remember on the day

Please tell us if:

- you have a young family
- you have a tendency to suffer from constipation.

Please do not bring children with you to the department. This is to avoid exposing them to unnecessary radiation.

## What is Nuclear Medicine?

Nuclear Medicine is a way of taking images of your body. We use a special camera that detects gamma-rays given out by a 'tracer' that is injected into your body. The tracer contains a small amount of radioactive material which means that your body shows up in the images we take.

## About your Gallium scan

This scan is used to look for areas of infection and inflammation in the body. Gallium is a radioactive tracer, which circulates in the blood and collects slowly in the areas that are inflamed or infected. We use a special camera to produce images of where the Gallium has collected in your body.

For this scan you will need to visit the department on two dates. On the first day you will have a small injection of Gallium into a vein in your arm. This takes about five minutes.

Two days later you will need to return to the department for a scan. You will be asked to lie on a couch whilst a camera takes two images of the Gallium in your body. Taking each image lasts about fifteen minutes and you will need to keep still during this time.

## Is there any risk from the radiation?

The amount of radiation used is kept to a minimum. We strongly believe that the benefits of the scan far outweigh any possible risk to your health. If you have any concerns that you would like to discuss, please contact us.

## Are there any side effects?

There are no known side effects from having this scan.

The substance we inject will not make you sleepy nor will it prevent you from driving a car.

## Female patients

You should not have a Gallium scan if you are pregnant or if you think you might be pregnant.

Please tell us before the test if you think you might be pregnant, if you are breast-feeding or if you have very young children.

## Medicines

For most scans there is no need to change any regular treatment. If you are unsure please contact us.

## After your scan

Following your scan you can eat and drink normally. You may go anywhere you wish but please try to avoid long periods of close contact with children for 24 hours. This is to avoid exposing them to unnecessary radiation.

## Results

The results of your scan will be sent to the hospital consultant who referred you to us.