

Royal Brompton & Harefield



NHS Foundation Trust

# Your nuclear medicine mIBG scan



This leaflet is a general guide to your scan. It does not replace the information and individual advice we give you in person. Please ask if you have any questions about this leaflet.

## **What is nuclear medicine?**

A nuclear medicine scan is a special way of obtaining images of the body. Before your scan, you will be injected with a tracer, which is a substance with a small amount of radioactivity. This tracer shows up in the scan and highlights the part of the body we need to test.

## **About your mIBG scan**

The scan uses mIBG as the tracer which allows us to see a group of specific cells in the body. You will have to return to the department over three days to complete the test.

- On the first day, we will give you an injection of mIBG and will monitor your blood pressure for the next half hour.
- We will ask you to return later in the afternoon to have your scan. The special camera will take two images of your body. It takes around 40 minutes for each image and you will have to keep still while the images are being taken.
- You will have to return to the department on the second and third day to take similar scans. However, you will not need further injections.

## Your appointment information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tuesday \_\_\_\_\_ for an injection

Tuesday \_\_\_\_\_ for a scan

Wednesday \_\_\_\_\_ for a scan

Thursday \_\_\_\_\_ for a scan

Please contact us on 020 7351 8666 to confirm your appointment.

We see many patients each day in our department but we will always try and keep to your appointment time as closely as possible. If you are late or if there is an emergency at the hospital, it may not be possible to perform your scan immediately.

### Points to remember before and on the day

- You will need to take the medication sent to you for five days - that is two days before the scan, the day of the scan and two days after the scan. Please follow the instructions.
- To avoid exposing children unnecessarily to radiation, please do not bring them with you to the department.
- If you are a private patient, you will need to pay your invoice on the day of your scan regardless of private insurance.

## **Is there any risk from the radiation?**

The amount of radiation used in the test is small and kept to an absolute 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. We aim to make sure that every patient fully understands the risks and benefits of the procedure. Please ask if you have any questions.

## **Are there any side effects?**

There are not any known side effects.

## **Female patients**

You should not have a nuclear medicine test if you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant. Please tell us before your test if you think you might be pregnant, if you are breastfeeding or if you have very young children.

## **People with diabetes**

You do not need to change your diet or treatment. Please bring your insulin with you and if you need to eat while you are with us, you should also bring a snack.

## **Medicines**

Some medicines may interfere with this test. Please contact the doctor who referred you to us to see if you need to change any medication before the test. If you would like information about any medication you may be given during the test, please contact us. You can also talk to the technician before your appointment.

## After your scan

You can eat and drink as usual and continue with your normal daily activities after your scan. Avoid unnecessary radiation exposure to children by limiting the amount of time you are in close contact with them for the rest of the day. The substance we use for your injection will not make you sleepy and it will not stop you from driving a car.

## Results

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

## How to find us

If you come through the main reception in Sydney Street go to level 3 and follow the signs to the bridge linking to Chelsea Wing. Nuclear Medicine is on level 3, Chelsea Wing.

## Ambulance

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

## Contact us

If you have any questions about your test or would like to change your appointment, please call us on 020 7351 8666.

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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 PALS on 020 7349 7715 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.

Brosürteki bilginin Türkçe tercümesi için tedavi  
görüyor olduğunuz bölüme bas vurunuz. Bölüm  
personeli tercümenin gerçekleşmesini en kısa  
zamanda ayarlayacaktır.

