

If you would like information about any medication you may be given during your scan, please contact us or speak to the technician when you arrive.

After your scan

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

Results

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

Queries

If you have any queries regarding your scan or want to alter the appointment date, please telephone us on: 020 7351 8666.

How to find us

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

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

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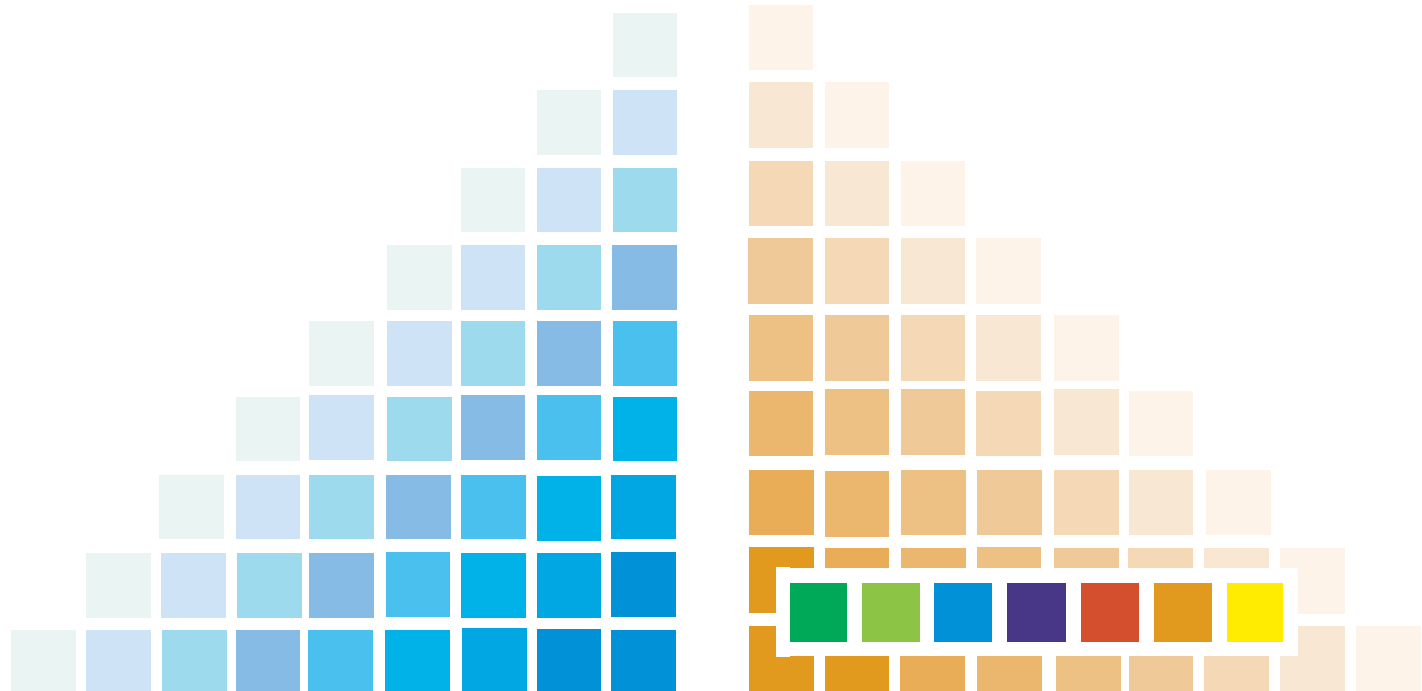
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Royal Brompton Hospital and
Royal Marsden Hospital

Your Nuclear Medicine Thallium Scan



What is Nuclear Medicine?

Nuclear medicine is a way of seeing how a 'tracer' (radioactive substance) has moved through your body. Our technicians are able to follow the movements of the tracer by detecting the gamma-rays that it gives out, using a special camera.

About your Thallium scan

This scan looks at the blood supply to your heart and takes place in two parts.

At first we will exercise your heart using medication and ask you to do some light pedalling on an exercise bike. We will then give you an injection containing a small amount of radioactive material - this is the tracer that helps us to scan your heart.

We will then take pictures of your heart using a special camera. This takes about 15 minutes and we will ask you to keep very still during this time.

We will then ask you to wait in the department for about two to three hours for the second part of the test. Please do not exert yourself during this time.

The second part of the test does not involve any exercise but you may be given another injection and have the scan repeated.

Is there any risk from the radiation?

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

Are there any side effects?

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

Appointment information

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

Points to remember on the day

- Please do not drink tea, coffee, hot chocolate, cola or anything containing caffeine for the 12 hours before your appointment. Fruit juice, milk and water are fine.
- Please bring a light lunch with you.
- Please wear appropriate clothing as you will be asked to do some gentle exercise. Trousers are best.

- Please bring your tablets or a list of the medicines and tablets you take.
- Please do not bring children with you to the department. This is to avoid exposing them to unnecessary radiation.
- If you are a private patient you will need to pay your invoice on the day of your scan.

Female patients

You should not have a Thallium scan if you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant. Please tell us before you have your scan if you think you might be pregnant, if you are breast feeding or if you have very young children.

Diabetics

If you are diabetic please continue with your normal routine. If you will need food during the time you are with us, please bring a snack with you. If you are on insulin please bring this also.

Medicines

For most scans there is no need to change any regular treatment. However, if you are taking Persantin or Dipyridamole please contact us before your appointment date.