

Nuclear Medicine

Dacroscentigram Scan

What is this leaflet for?

This leaflet will help you get ready for your visit to the Nuclear Medicine department. Please read the information and call us if you have any questions. We are happy to help.

What is a Dacroscentigram?

This is a test to check how well you tear ducts drain. A few small drops of a radioactive tracer will be dropped into the corner of each of your eyes.

Please call us as soon as possible if:

- You are pregnant or think you might be pregnant
- You are breastfeeding
- You have any additional needs
- You will be using ambulance transport for your appointment, and it is after midday
- You don't live in your own private home, like a care home

Telephone: 024 7696 8212

Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm



Patient Information

How should you prepare?

You don't need to do anything to prepare for this test. You can eat and drink as usual and continue with your usual medication.

Please plan to be at your appointment for 1 hour.

What will happen when you come for your procedure?

When you arrive, you will be taken to a scanning room and asked to sit on a chair. You will be asked to take off any glasses or remove contact lenses, if you are wearing them. We will then put eye drops in both eyes. These drops are slightly radioactive but will not affect your vision or make you feel any different.

Immediately after, you will sit in front of a special camera called a gamma camera and we will begin taking images to assess the drainage of the radioactive drops through your tear ducts. Your chin and head will be supported by a specialised support, which can be adjusted for your comfort. The scan will take around 30 minutes and it is important to keep your head still.

After the test is completed, we will rinse your eyes with sterile water. A member of staff will be able to always see you in the room.

What else do you need to know?

You may be given one of two medicines depending on what we have available but they both work for the test in the same way.

This first medicine is made from human serum albumin, which comes from human blood donations tested to meet EEC Regulations. It has been tested to make sure it is safe.

The second medicine used in the test is an unlicensed medicine.

In the UK, medicines are approved for use by the UK's governing body for medicines, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory

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Agency (MHRA). They check medicines are safe, work well and are of good quality. An unlicensed medicine is any medicine used without full approval from the MHRA. This could mean using a medicine for another use different to its usual purpose or using a medicine approved in another country.

You have been prescribed an unlicensed medicine because there is not a fully approved alternative available. Your doctors have thought carefully about giving you this medicine to make sure it's the best option for you, and they will monitor you closely to make sure it is safe.

How much radiation will you receive?

This examination exposes you to ionising radiation. The amount of radiation is 0.03 mSv(millisievert). 0.03 mSv is about the same amount of natural radiation you get living in the UK for 11 days.

Your doctor has recommended this scan because the benefit outweighs the very low risk of harm. The risk of getting cancer because of this radiation is around 4 in 10000 people. This is very small compared with the 1 in 2 risk of someone getting cancer naturally in their lifetime.

What happens after the pictures have been taken?

You will wait in the department while your pictures are checked. You may need to have another picture taken after the first set of pictures have been taken. If you need this extra picture, we will let you know at the time. You will need to wait in the department until this extra picture is taken.

When all the pictures have been taken, a member of staff will let you know that you can leave. Please note, we are not able to discuss the results with you. A specialist Doctor will issue a report and send it to the Doctor who requested the test usually within 10 working days.

Directions and Car Parking

The Nuclear Medicine department is a short walk from the main entrance on the ground floor. When you enter the hospital through the main entrance, turn left to go into the West wing. Follow the signs for X-

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ray along the corridor, and you'll find X-ray on the left, just after the Fracture Clinic. Go to the X-ray reception and walk straight ahead. Follow signs for Nuclear Medicine. You will go through the double doors and enter the main reception area of the department.

There is parking available for patients and visitors, but spaces can be limited, so it is a good idea to arrive early. There is a charge for parking, and automatic number plate recognition systems are in use. For more details about directions, parking charges, and site maps, visit the trust website at (www.uhcnhs.uk).

Facilities available in the hospital

- Chilled water dispenser in the department.
- Costa Coffee, M&S and WHSmith in the main reception area.
- Three hospital restaurants.

What if you still have questions?

If you have any questions or concerns, we're here to help. Call the person who referred you for this treatment or call Nuclear Medicine.

The Nuclear Medicine department is open:

Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm

Phone: 024 7696 8212

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact 024 7696 8212 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke-free policy.

Patient Information

Did we get it right?

We would like you to tell us what you think about our services. This will help us make further improvements and recognise members of staff who provide a good service.



Have your say. Scan the QR code or visit:
www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback

Document History

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