

Nuclear Medicine

**Ground Floor (Access via X-Ray Dept.)
Clifford Bridge Rd, Coventry, CV2 2DX**

DaTscan (Brain)

We provide this information to help you prepare for your visit to the Nuclear Medicine Department. It is important that you read all of the information enclosed about your appointment.

What is a DaTscan?

A DaTscan is a nuclear medicine test that looks at the function of dopamine transporters in your brain. Dopamine is a chemical which is important in areas of the brain that help control movement. It is often used to help distinguish Parkinson's disease from other causes of tremor or difficulties with movement.

Please allow up to 6 hours for your appointment in total.

Important

We require you to ring the department on receipt of this letter to confirm that you will be attending your appointment (see orange sticker). This will enable us to order the injection required for your test.

Please also contact the department as soon as possible if:

- You are pregnant (or think you may be pregnant)
- You are breastfeeding



Patient Information

- You have any special needs
- You will be using ambulance transport to attend your appointment and your appointment time is after midday.

Telephone: 02476 968212

Mon-Fri 08:30am – 5.00pm

Preparation

- **It is important that we know about any medication that you are taking as you may need to stop taking it for a short time prior to the scan. Please let us know what medication you are taking when you confirm your appointment**
- **You may eat and drink as normal.**

What will happen when I come for my scan?

When you first arrive in the department you will be given two small tablets to swallow with some water. You will also be given two tablets to take home with you. It is important that you take these tablets on the morning after your test.

These tablets are used to prevent some of the radioactivity being taken up by your thyroid gland.

Approximately 45 minutes after taking these tablets you will be given a small injection of radioactive tracer into a vein in your arm or hand.

After the injection you will be asked to wait between 3 and 5 hours before the pictures can be taken. During this time, you are welcome to remain in the department, but you can leave the department if you wish. You will be told when to return for your pictures at the time of the injection. You may also wish to bring something to eat with you depending on the time of your appointment.

After the injection

You will be asked to drink plenty of fluids and empty your bladder frequently. If you have been told by your doctor to limit your fluid intake,

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please inform us when you are given your injection. You will also be asked to limit your contact with small children and pregnant individuals for the remainder of the day. We suggest that for the rest of the day you try to keep any time that you spend within arm's length of pregnant individuals, babies and small children as short as possible. However, there is no need to stop giving children essential love and care.

The radioactivity in your body will soon disappear.

What happens when I have my scan?

Your scan is taken by a special machine called a gamma camera. You will be asked to lie on your back on the imaging couch. Two camera detectors will come close to your head and will slowly take pictures of your brain at different angles as they rotate around your head. The scans take between 30 to 45 minutes and it is important that you keep still during this time. A member of staff will be able to see you throughout the scan.

What happens after the scan?

You will be asked to wait in the department for a few minutes whilst the images are processed and checked. You will be told by staff when you can leave.

Please note we are **not** permitted to discuss the results with you. The doctor who requested the test usually receives the results within 10 days.

How much radiation will I receive?

For this scan it is necessary to inject a small amount of radioactive tracer. The small risk from this is outweighed by the information that will be gained by taking the scan. A doctor will have checked the request to ensure that this is the appropriate test for you.

Directions and Car Parking

The department is a short walk from the main entrance on the ground floor. To find the Nuclear Medicine department enter the hospital through the main entrance and turn left on to the West wing. Follow the signs for X-ray along the corridor. X-ray is located on the left hand side just past Fracture Clinic. Enter X-ray reception and continue ahead, following signs for

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Nuclear Medicine. The department is located through the double doors, where you will enter into the main reception area of the department.

Hospital car parking is available to all hospital patients and visitors. Spaces are limited so please allow plenty of time to locate a car parking space. A charge is payable. Further information including directions, parking charges and site maps are available on the trust website (www.uhcnhs.uk).

Relatives and Escorts

You may wish to bring a friend or relative to accompany you for your investigation. They may be useful if you do not speak English very well or if you have any special needs. Please do not bring children or pregnant individuals with you.

Facilities available in the hospital

- Chilled water dispenser in the department
- Grand Union coffee shop, M&S Food Hall and WHSmith in the main reception foyer
- Three hospital restaurants

More information

All the staff would like to make your visit as pleasant as possible. If you have any concerns, please talk to the person looking after you or contact us on the phone number overleaf.

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

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email feedback@uhcnhs.uk

Document History

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