

Nuclear Medicine

Gallium PET-CT scan

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 Gallium PET/CT scan?

PET-CT (Positron Emission Tomography with Computerised Tomography) helps doctors see inside your body. It uses a small amount of radioactive material. For this scan, we will give you an injection of Gallium-68 dotatate, which helps us to find certain types of tumours related to neuro-endocrine systems. A CT scan happens at the same time to show exactly where those areas are.

Please call the department when you get this letter to let us know you can come to your appointment. We can then order the injection needed for your test. If you do not confirm, your appointment will be cancelled.

Telephone: 024 7696 8212

Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

Please let us know as soon as possible if you take:

- Monthly octreotide LAR (also known as Sandostatin LAR)
- Monthly lanreotide (also known as Lanreotide Autogel) or
- Short-acting octreotide injections (usually 2-3 times per day)



Patient information

Please also tell us as soon as you can if:

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

Please plan to be at your appointment for up to 3 hours.

How should you prepare?

- You can take all other medications as usual.
- You can eat and drink as usual before your scan.

Please wear loose clothing that doesn't have metal zips, buttons or studs. If your clothes have metal, you will need to change into a hospital gown.

Make sure to leave early to get to your appointment on time. The tracer we use is made just for you and has a very short shelf life, so scans cannot be delayed. Your injection will be prepared for you once you arrive at the department.

What will happen when you come for your scan?

First, we'll put a cannula in a vein in your arm or hand. You will need to wait about 30 to 45 minutes while we prepare your injection.

We will give you the injection through the cannula. Then, you will need to sit and relax for about 30 minutes before the scan. You can listen to music and read. As the injection is radioactive, your family cannot wait close to you. They can stay in a different area of the department, and we can let them know when it's time to collect you.

Patient information

After you get the injection, try to avoid being close to small children and pregnant people for the rest of the day. You can still take care of children and give them essential love and care.

It is very unlikely you will feel any side effects after the test. If you do feel unwell, please let us know.

What happens when the pictures are taken?

Before you go into the scanning room, you will need to empty your bladder. You will lie on a special bed that goes into the PET-CT scanner. It is important to stay as still as you can, but you can breathe normally.

The scan will take about 30 minutes. As the bed moves through the scanner, it will take pictures of your body. We will be able to see you throughout the scan.

What happens after the scan?

After the scan, you will need to wait for a few minutes while we check your images. We will tell you when this is complete, and you can leave. We cannot talk about the results right away. The Doctor who asked for the scan will usually get the results in 3 to 5 working days.

How much radiation will you receive?

This test exposes you to ionising radiation. The amount of radiation is about 3.9 mSv (millisievert). 3.9 mSv is about the same amount of natural radiation you get living in the UK for 511 days.

Your doctor has recommended this scan because the benefit to you outweighs the very low risk of harm. The risk of getting cancer because of this radiation is around 39 in 2000. This is very small compared with the 1 in 2 risk of someone getting cancer naturally in their lifetime.

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-ray along the corridor, and you'll find X-ray on the left, just after the

Patient information

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.uhcw.nhs.uk).

Relatives and escorts

You can bring a friend or relative with you to your appointment but please **do not** bring children or pregnant people with you.

Facilities available in the hospital

- Chilled water dispenser in the department.
- Costa Coffee, M&S and WHSmith in the main reception foyer.
- 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

Department: Nuclear Medicine
Contact: 28212
Updated: January 2025
Review: January 2027
Version: 2
Reference: HIC/LFT/2410/20