

Patient Information

Nuclear Medicine

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

SeHCAT Test

This information will help you to 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 SeHCAT study?

A SeHCAT study is a procedure to determine how well your gut is able to absorb bile acids. Poor absorption of bile acids can result in chronic diarrhoea. This test can assist in its diagnosis and can help in making a decision about the best treatment for you.

Important

Please contact the department as soon as possible if:

- You are pregnant (or think you may be pregnant)
- You are breastfeeding
- You have special needs
- If you have had a colonoscopy within the two weeks before this appointment, or you have one booked during your two appointments (see attached letter for your appointment dates).
- If you are currently taking any medication for your diarrhea, such as cholestyramine, Creon or colessevelam, staff will be able to advise on whether you need to stop medication.



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Please contact us on:

Tel: 02476 968212

Monday-Friday: 8.30am – 5.00pm

Preparation

You can eat and drink normally on the day of the test.

What will happen when I attend for my scan?

The test requires two appointments booked seven days apart. On the first appointment you will be given a capsule containing a small amount of radioactive bile salt. This capsule will not make you feel any different.

Please note – the capsule may contain gelatine derived from animal products.

You will be asked to wait for 30-60 minutes before you have some special measurements taken with a gamma camera. These will take about 10 minutes. When you return 7 days later you will have the measurements repeated.

Please allow 90 minutes for the first part of the test and 30 minutes for the second part.

What happens when the pictures are taken?

You will be asked to lie on the imaging table with the camera positioned over your abdomen. There is no need to remove any of your clothing but we will ask you to remove any metal objects from your clothing or pockets such as keys, coins, belts, watches and large pieces of jewellery. These measurements will take about 10 minutes. A member of staff will be with you at all times.

How much radiation will I receive?

You will receive a small radiation dose from the capsule. The radiation dose is equivalent to the amount received from natural sources of radiation in approximately 2 months. 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.

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What happens after the pictures?

You will be asked to wait for a few minutes whilst your images are processed and checked. You will be told when this is completed and when you can leave. We are not permitted to discuss the results with you. The doctor who requested the scan usually receives the results within 10 days.

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 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, number plate recognition is in operation. Further information including directions, parking charges and site maps are available on the trust website (www.uhcnw.nhs.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
- Costa coffee shop, M&S Food Hall and WHSmith shop in the main reception foyer
- Three hospital restaurants

Patient Information

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 024 7696 8212.

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@uhcw.nhs.uk

Document History

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