

Nuclear Medicine

Ground Floor (Access via X-Ray Dept.)

Clifford Bridge Rd, Coventry, CV2 2DX

Octreotide scan

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 an octreotide scan?

An octreotide scan is a nuclear medicine test which involves a small injection of a radioactive tracer to detect certain types of tumours arising from the neuro-endocrine system of the body.

The study is performed over 2 days. On the first day, you will be given an injection containing a small amount of a radioactive tracer. Approximately four hours after this, a set of pictures will be taken. You will need to return on the second day where more detailed pictures of your body will be taken.

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. Failure to do this by the specified date will result in the cancellation of your appointments.



Patient Information

Please contact the department as soon as possible if:

- You are pregnant (or think you may be pregnant)
- You are breastfeeding
- You have any special needs
- You will be using ambulance transport to attend your appointment and your appointment time is later than midday.

Telephone: 02476 968212

Mon-Fri 08:30am – 5.00pm

Preparation

If you are having any octreotide injections, such as lanreotide, sandostatin or somatostatin, please contact the Nuclear Medicine Department as soon as you get your appointment letter. It may be necessary for you to stop having this medication for a short period or to schedule your study around your injections. We will discuss this with your consultant and then advise you accordingly.

You should continue taken all other medication as normal. Please eat and drink as normal.

What will happen when I attend for my scan?

Staff within the Department will explain the procedure to you fully when you arrive for your appointment.

Day 1

The test requires you to have a small injection. It is slightly radioactive, but will not make you feel any different. It takes a few hours to concentrate in the body before pictures can be taken.

These pictures will be taken approximately 4 hours after your injection. You will be free to leave the department or hospital after your injection, but you are most welcome to wait in our Department.

Patient Information

Whatever your decision it is important you drink plenty of fluid and empty your bladder regularly. This helps to wash out excess tracer from your body. You will be given a time to return for your scan when you have your injection.

Before the scan you will be asked to go to the toilet to empty your bladder. You will not have to get undressed, but you will be asked to remove any metal objects like braces, belts or jewellery before you lie on the bed of the scanner. You will be asked to lie on a special couch whilst the pictures are taken by a machine called a gamma camera.

The scan will take approximately 20 to 30 minutes and it is important that you keep still during this time.

Day 2

Images on the second day of the test will take longer and will involve a number of pictures being taken. These images may take up to 2 hours to acquire.

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.

After your injection you will be asked to limit your contact with small children and pregnant individuals for 72 hours following the injection. We suggest that for this period you try to keep any time that you spend within arm's length of pregnant individuals, babies and small children as short as possible.

What happens after the images are taken?

After the images have been taken, you will be asked to wait for a few minutes whilst they are processed and checked. You will be told when this is completed and when you can leave.

Patient Information

We are **not** permitted to discuss the results with you. The doctor who requested the scan usually receives the results within 1 week.

Please continue to drink plenty of fluid for the next 3 days and empty your bladder regularly.

If you are planning to travel abroad within 4 weeks of your scan, please let us know when you attend. This is because there are sensitive radiation detectors in airports and ports for security purposes and residual radioactivity within your body may trigger these detectors. We will issue you with a letter that explains about the radioactive tracer that you have been given.

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 and number plate recognition is in operation. 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

Patient Information

- 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 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.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk

Document History

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