

Nuclear Medicine

SeHCAT Study

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 SeHCAT study?

A SeHCAT study checks how well your gut absorbs bile acids. If your gut doesn't absorb them properly, it can cause long-term diarrhoea. This test helps doctors find out what's causing the problem and how to treat it. If you have any questions, please ask your doctor.

Please call us as soon as possible if:

- You are pregnant or think you might be pregnant
- You are breastfeeding
- You have had a colonoscopy within the two weeks before your appointment, or you have one booked during the two appointments (see attached letter for your appointment dates).
- You are taking any medication for diarrhoea like, **Colestyramine, Creon, Colesevelam, Aluminium Hydroxide, or Loperamide (Imodium)**.
- You will be using ambulance transport for your appointment, and it is after midday.
- You need any special help
- You don't live in your own private home, like a care home



Patient Information

Telephone: 024 7696 8212

Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm

How should you prepare?

You can eat and drink as usual on the day of the test.

Please plan to be at your appointment for 90 minutes for the first part of the test and 30 minutes for the second part.

What does the study involve?

The study has two appointments, one week apart. At the first appointment, you will take a capsule containing a small amount of radioactive bile salt, which will not make you feel any different. Please note, the capsule might contain gelatine derived from animal products.

After taking the capsule, you will wait 30 to 60 minutes, then a gamma camera will take measurements for about 10 minutes. The second appointment will repeat these measurements.

What happens when the measurements are taken?

In the camera room, you will need to take off any metal objects you are carrying or wearing such as coins/keys in pockets and belts. You will lie on an imaging couch with the camera placed over your stomach. The measurements will take about 10 minutes, and staff will be able to see you the whole time.

What happens after the measurements are taken?

You will wait a few minutes while we check your pictures. Once this is done, you can leave. We cannot give you the results right away. The doctor who asked for the scan usually gets the results in 10 working days.

How much radiation will you receive?

This examination exposes you to ionising radiation. The amount of radiation is 0.28 mSv(millisievert). 0.28 mSv is about the same amount of natural radiation you get living in the UK for 37 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 1 person in 714 people. 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 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).

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.

Patient Information

The Nuclear Medicine department is open:

Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm.

Call: 02476 968212

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact 02476 96 8212 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke-free policy.

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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