

Information for patients attending for an estimated shunt fraction test

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We would like to invite you to attend for an estimated shunt fraction test as requested by a consultant. This patient information will explain what an estimated shunt fraction test involves and answer some questions you may have. It will also explain why this test is necessary and inform you of the risks that are involved with performing the test.

What is an estimated shunt fraction test?

An estimated shunt fraction test is a specific test used to investigate whether there is a pulmonary shunt. A pulmonary shunt is when blood vessels bypass the lungs, resulting in low levels of oxygen within the blood.

Why do I need the test and what does it involve?

This test helps to assess how efficiently your lungs and heart are working. The test involves breathing 100% oxygen via a mask for 20 minutes. A blood sample will then be taken from your wrist to measure the gas levels within the blood.

How long will the test take?

The length of the appointment will depend on which tests are requested. This can be up to an hour. The estimated shunt fraction alone can take approximately 30 minutes.

Will the test cause any harm?

Due to the nature of the blood gas test and the requirement to puncture the skin, this can cause some minor pain and discomfort whilst obtaining a blood sample. You can terminate the test at any point, and you will be supported by a trained member of the team throughout each stage of the procedure.

How will I be informed of the results?

After the test is performed the results will be sent to the referring consultant who will discuss these with you. Any further testing or treatment decisions will also be made by the consultant.

Please allow ample time to arrive for your appointment. Our aim is to see you as soon as possible but we will let you know if there are any delays. If you have any further questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact us on the telephone number provided on your appointment letter.

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www.accessable.co.uk/united-lincolnshire-hospitals-nhs-trust

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If you require this information in another language or alternative format, please email the Patient Information team at ulth.patient.information@nhs.net