

Your DMSA Kidney Scan explained (NDMSA)

Please read this patient information carefully as it contains information on preparing for the scan

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Aim of the patient information

This patient information is for patients having a DMSA Kidney Scan. It aims to tell you what a DMSA Kidney Scan is and what will happen.

General information

A doctor has asked that we take some pictures of your kidneys and how well they are functioning.

As the test involves small amounts of radiation, we ask that you are **not** accompanied by children under 18 or anyone who may be pregnant. You may bring one adult with you to the department.

If the appointment clashes with another outpatient appointment or test, or you are unable to attend on this day, please contact the Nuclear Medicine department on the number provided as soon as possible. We can then reschedule the test and assign the appointment to another patient.

If you have mobility issues, are incontinent or claustrophobic please contact the department on the number provided.

Benefit and risks of the test

Everyone receives some radiation every day from the radioactivity in the air, food we eat and even from space. The amount of radiation in a nuclear medicine test is similar to your natural exposure over 3 months. The risks linked with this are low.

The main benefit of the test is making the correct diagnosis, so you can get the treatment that is right for you. This benefit is far greater than the small risk from radiation.

If you have any concerns, please contact the department in advance or ask to speak to someone on the day of your scan.

Preparation

If you have had a urinary tract infection in the three months prior to the test, please contact the department as soon as possible. The accuracy of the test may be affected.

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, you must inform the department as quickly as possible as special arrangements may have to be made.

There is no special preparation required for this test. **Please eat and drink as normal.** Please bring with you a list of any medication that you are taking (your repeat prescription sheet if possible).

For **Paediatric** tests only (usually 0 to 15 years), please arrive at the nuclear medicine department **1 hour** before your appointment time (allows time for cannulation).

What does the test involve?

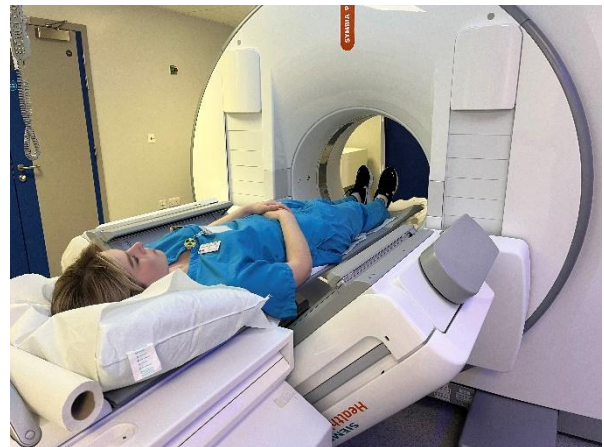
There are two parts to this test.

Part 1

The test involves giving a small injection of a radioactive tracer into one of the veins in your hands or arms. There should be no ill effects from the injection. A 3-hour delay is then necessary to allow time for the injection to circulate and reach your kidneys. During this time, you will be free to leave the hospital if you wish.

Part 2

After 3 hours, you will be asked to lie flat on a bed and a number of pictures are then taken with a Gamma Camera (see photos below). To avoid any blurring of the pictures it is necessary for you to lie as still as possible for about 30 minutes. You are then free to leave the department.



After the test

For the rest of the day, you must take extra care to wash your hands thoroughly after toilet use, sit down when you use the toilet and to flush the toilet twice. You must also continue to drink extra fluids and empty your bladder frequently. This will improve the clearance of the radiation from your body.

When the test is completed, the images will be reviewed, and a report will be available to the doctor who has requested the test.

Radiation information

If you would like to find out more about medical radiation, please access the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/medical-radiation-uses-dose-measurements-and-safety-advice>

The camera

The Gamma Camera used to take the pictures has an open design and the majority of patients complete the test without any discomfort.

Contact details

If you have any questions about any of this information, please contact the Nuclear Medicine Department on 01522 573103.

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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