



Mater Misericordiae University Hospital

Preparing for your Octreotide Scan

What is an Octreotide scan'?

In Nuclear Medicine we use an injection of a small amount of radioactivity to show areas of your body that your doctor wishes to examine more closely. An 'Octreotide' scan is a test, which helps to look at the abdomen in a different way to other scans (CAT scan or MRI).

What will your scan involve?

On the day of the scan you will be asked to attend the x-ray department, where you will be brought to the Nuclear Medicine department. The scan itself involves one of the radiographers giving you a small injection into a vein in the arm. This injection should have no side effects (such as making you sleepy). We then have to wait approximately 4 hours before doing the first scan. During the time between the injection and the scan you are free to leave the hospital but are to minimise your eating as explained to you on the day. However, it is very important to drink plenty of fluids.

On returning, you will be asked to lie on a bed and a special camera will pass over your body, this takes about 30-45mins. You will not need to undress except to remove metal objects (i.e. belts and chains).

You will then be asked to return to the department the following morning for the second part of the scan. This is very similar to the scan performed on the first day except it may take longer (60-90mins).

Is there any preparation before this scan?

The success of this scan of this examination on the bowel being as clear as possible otherwise the exam may need to be repeated. In order to keep the bowel clear you are asked to fast for this scan and are therefore asked to skip breakfast the morning of the scan, except for small amounts of fluids. If your bowel is not clear enough after the first scan you may be asked to take a mild laxative.

What about after the scan?

It is recommended that you minimise the time you spend in close contact (within 2 meters) with small children and pregnant women for the 48 hours following the injection, to avoid unnecessarily exposing them to very small amounts of radiation.

How much radiation will I get?

Firstly, it is very important to know that you will only receive a very small amount of radiation. We are all exposed to natural background radiation during our lives. The radiation dose from this scan is similar to that which you would receive from the environment over a period of 2 years. The benefits to you having this scan outweigh any possible radiation risks.



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Do I need to bring anything with me?

Don't forget to bring your appointment card if your doctor gave you one. Although every effort is made to keep to the appointed times, unforeseeable events may cause delays and therefore a magazine/book may be useful.

Please do not bring small children to the department with you, however, you are quite welcome to bring an adult companion to the department as long as they are definitely not pregnant or trying for a baby.

How soon will I get the results?

A doctor in Nuclear Medicine analyses your scan and writes a report, which is then sent to your doctor. Your doctor should then have the results within the next 7-10 days or else at the time of your next appointment.

When you come for your scan you will first need to go to the X-ray department.

LADIES

It is very important that we avoid carrying out this examination if you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant. If this is the case, please contact us in advance. When you arrive for your scan you will be asked for the date of the first day of your last period. If your period is overdue, your appointment date may be re-arranged.