



Your Nuclear Medicine Parathyroid Scan

Scanning Department Radiology

Great Western Hospital

If you need to cancel or you have queries or concerns please contact the department on

01793 60 50 45

Opening Hours

Monday - Friday 9.00am – 4.30pm



Your Nuclear Medicine Parathyroid Scan

What is a parathyroid scan?

The parathyroids are small glands which lie in the neck behind the thyroid gland. This scan is to assess their function and structure. You will be given an injection of a small amount of radioactive tracer in a vein in your arm. A CT Scan may also be done to improve the quality of the images.

Do I have to have this scan?

The doctor has requested this scan for you. It is the easiest way to gain the information needed to diagnose your problem.

Are there any risks involved?

There are no side effects from the tracer injection.

During your procedure you will receive a dose of ionising radiation to help us form images of your body and this will provide your doctor with detailed information. The radiation dose is always kept as low as possible. The actual dose you receive will vary depending on the type of procedure you are having, but your doctor has considered this and feels that this is the best procedure for you to have to help diagnose or treat your condition.

We are all at risk of developing cancer in our lifetime and the added risk from undergoing your procedure is small and is outweighed because of the benefits it provides and every procedure that you have in Radiology has been assessed to ensure that the benefit outweighs the



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risk. For more information see the displays within the department or ask a member of staff.

What do I have to do before I come?

- You may eat and drink as normal both before and after the scan.
- You will not be asked to undress, but we will ask you to remove any necklaces.
- It will not affect your ability to drive.
- You will be asked to remove metal objects such as coins, keys and pendants.

If you need to cancel or you have queries or concerns, ring:

Ring **01793 605045**

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What does a parathyroid scan involve?

- On arrival you will be given an injection into a vein in your arm.
- You will be asked to lie on the couch and the scan will begin.
- The scan is then repeated at 1 and 3 hours after the injection, so you should allow up to 4 hours for the entire examination. This second scan may take up to 45 minutes.



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After the scan:

- While you are still in the department we will check that the images we have acquired are technically correct, and if so you will be free to go home.
- A Radiologist will study the images and a report will be sent direct to your referring Consultant.
- You will receive a letter or follow-up appointment from your Consultant to discuss the results. If you have any queries regarding your follow-up appointment please contact your Consultant's Secretary.
- **The results will not be available immediately after the examination.**

You should avoid close contact with pregnant women and small children for 24 hours following the injection.

If you think you may be pregnant or are breast feeding please call for advice.



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From 1st January 2019 smoking will not be permitted on any NHS site in England. Smoking will not be permitted within any of our buildings or anywhere outside on our sites. Smoking facilities will not be provided. Please be considerate of others when vaping in hospital grounds

This information sheet is available to order in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01793 604031 or email gwh.pals@nhs.net

Document Control

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