



Your Nuclear Medicine Renogram Kidney 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 Renogram Kidney Scan

What is an Isotope Renogram (Kidney Scan)?

A Renogram kidney scan tests the function of your kidneys. You will be given an injection of a small amount of a radioactive tracer into a vein in your arm.

The tracer passes through the kidneys and the camera takes images from the time of the injection so that a special graph is obtained of how the kidneys are working.

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



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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.

What do I have to do before I come?

- **Please ensure you drink at least one pint of fluid before you arrive on the day of the scan.**
- You may eat as normal before and after the scan.
- You should continue with any usual medication.
- There is no need for you to undress, but we suggest you wear comfortable loose fitting clothing.
- You will be asked to remove metal objects such as coins, keys, pendants and belts.

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What does a Renogram involve?

- On arrival a small plastic tube (cannula) will be inserted into a vein in your arm.
- If you have not taken adequate fluids, we may ask you to drink some more.
- You will be given the opportunity to empty your bladder before the scan starts.
- For the scan you will be lying on your back on the imaging couch. The camera taking the images will be underneath you.
- An injection of radioactive tracer is given through the plastic tube (cannula).
- The passage of the tracer is followed through the kidneys and into the bladder for 30 minutes. During this time it is very important that you keep absolutely still. 10 minutes into the scan, it may be necessary to give you another injection through the plastic tube (cannula). This injection is a small amount of fluid that will make your kidneys produce more urine for a short period of time, this may make you feel more thirsty than usual and we will advise you to go to the Restaurant (opposite Radiology) for a drink before leaving.



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After the scan:

- There are no adverse effects from this 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.
- It will not affect your ability to drive.
- The results will not be available immediately after the examination.
- A Radiologist will study the images and a report will be sent direct to your referring doctor.
- You will receive a letter or follow-up appointment from your doctor to discuss the results.

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

If you think you may be pregnant or are breastfeeding please ring 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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