



# Your Nuclear Medicine Thyroid 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 Thyroid Scan

## **What is a thyroid scan?**

An isotope thyroid scan demonstrates the function and structure of the thyroid gland. You will be given an injection of a small amount of radioactive tracer in a vein in your arm.

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



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## What do I have to do before I come?

- If you are taking Carbimazole tablets stop them 5 days before your appointment.
- If you take **Propylthiouracil (PTU)** or any other Thyroid drug, please ring the Radiographers to discuss. The number is: 01793 605045
- You will not be asked to undress, but we will ask you to remove any necklaces. Please ensure you collect your belongings before leaving the room.
- You may eat and drink as normal before and after the scan.
- It will not affect your ability to drive.

## For females of child bearing age you must ring for advice if:

- You think you may be pregnant
- You are breast feeding

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## What does a thyroid scan involve?

- On arrival you will be given an injection into a vein in your arm.
- The injection then needs approximately 15 to 20 minutes to be taken up into the thyroid gland. You will be asked to wait in the department during this time.



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- The scan takes up to 30 minutes, but please allow one hour for the entire procedure.

## After the scan:

- **If you were asked to stop your thyroid medication prior to the scan it is at this point that you may resume your thyroid medication.**
- 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.
- **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 Consultant to discuss the results. If you have any queries regarding your follow-up appointment please contact your Consultant's Secretary.

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

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](mailto:gwh.pals@nhs.net)**

### Document Control

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