



**Nuclear Medicine
Paediatric DMSA
Kidney Scan**
(Over one year old)

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



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What is DMSA Kidney Scan?

A DMSA kidney scan is a way of demonstrating *the size, shape and function of the kidneys*. It requires an injection of a small amount of radioactive tracer, which is taken up by the kidneys. You will be asked to return 3 -4 hours later for the scan.

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 child's problem.

Are there any risks involved?

There are no side-effects from the tracer injection.

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

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



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

Do I need to prepare for the scan?

- Your child may eat as normal before and after the scan.
- Your child should continue with any usual medication.
- **We would ask you to apply the enclosed EMLA cream to both hands as per the enclosed instructions one hour before the given appointment time.** This is a local anaesthetic to make the injection more comfortable.
- Please feel free to bring any toys, books or a favourite DVD that you feel may relax and amuse your child during the scan.

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What does the procedure involve?

- The doctor will insert a small plastic tube (cannula) into a vein in your child's hand in the Paediatric Assessment Unit. Once this is in place a small amount of the DMSA tracer will be put through this tube into the vein. The tube is then removed.



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- You will be free to leave the hospital after the injection and will be asked to return for the scan, this will be approximately 3 – 4 hours later. We will give you the scan appointment time at the time of your injection.

When you return for the scan:

- A special camera will be used to take images of the kidneys.
- Your child will be asked to lie on their back on the imaging couch. Three images will be taken in slightly different positions, each image lasts approximately five minutes.
- You do not need to undress him/her, but any metal buckles and similar items around the tummy need to be removed so that they do not get in the way of the pictures.
- You are welcome to stay with your child for the scan.

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.
- For the few hours after the scan you should encourage your child to drink more than usual and this will flush the tracer from their system.
- **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.



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You will receive a letter or follow-up appointment from your child's Consultant to discuss the results. If you have any queries regarding your child's follow up appointment please contact the Consultant's secretary.



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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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