



Your Nuclear Medicine Bone Spect 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 Bone Spect Scan

What is a Bone Spect Scan?

Bone scanning is a very sensitive method of examining your bones. You will be given an injection of a small amount of radioactive tracer, which is taken up by your bones. Your letter gives the injection appointment time.

The scan will take place after a delay of about 3 hours. This is to allow time for the tracer to be absorbed by your bones. You are free to leave the hospital. We will tell you exactly when to come back on the day.

If we require a more detailed scan you will also receive a separate appointment for a CT 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 problem.

Are there any risks involved?

There are no side-effects from the injection. It will not affect your ability to drive.

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.



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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.

Do I need to prepare for the scan?

- You should be aware that you are advised to avoid very close contact with pregnant women and small children for 24 hours following the injection
- You may eat and drink normally both before and after the scan.
- You should continue with any usual medication
- You will be asked to drink plenty between the injection and the scan (1-2 pints of fluid)
- You may eat normally between the injection and the scan
- You will not be asked 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
- Where possible please do not bring children with you for your appointment

If you have any queries of concerns ring:

01793 60 50 45



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What does the procedure involve?

- The injection is given into a vein in your arm
- The radiographer will give you a time to return for the scan
- If you are not able to leave the hospital, you may pass the time in the restaurant.

When you return for the scan

- The scan involves lying flat on a couch for about 30 minutes while a special camera takes pictures of your bones
- These pictures will then be processed and where necessary matched with the CT scan

After the procedure:

- The scan will be checked. Sometimes plain x-rays are taken to complete the examination
- The results will not be available immediately after the scan
- 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 to discuss the results. Please allow 2 weeks for this



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Remember that 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.

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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