



Your Nuclear Medicine DMSA 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 DMSA Kidney Scan

What is a 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.

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.

Do I need to prepare for the scan?

- You may eat as normal before and after the scan.
- You should continue with any usual medication.
- 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, key, pendants and belts.

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Ring **01793 605045**

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What does the procedure involve?

- On arrival you will be given an injection into a vein in your arm. The injection then needs time to be taken up by the kidneys.
- 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.



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When you return for the scan:

- A special camera will be used to take images of the kidneys.
- You will be asked to lie on your back on the imaging couch. Three images will be taken in slightly different positions.
- You do not need to undress.

After the scan:

- You are advised to avoid close contact with expectant mothers and small children for 24 hours following the injection.
- 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 doctor.
- You will receive a letter or follow-up appointment from your doctor to discuss the results.
- **The results will not be available immediately after the examination.**

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



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**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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