Royal United Hospitals Bath
NHS Foundation Trust

Nuclear Medicine Meckel's Scan

Patient Information Sheet

A Meckel's scan is a diagnostic procedure, to investigate Meckel's Diverticulum. This is a small abnormality in the small intestine present at birth which can sometimes cause ulcers and bleeding.

The procedure involves an injection of a small amount of radioactive tracer and imaging with a gamma camera and a CT scanner (using x-rays).

Preparation for your appointment

It is important to follow all the instructions in your appointment letter.

You must not eat or drink anything for 4 hours before your appointment.

Wear or bring clothes that **do not contain metal clips or zips. ALL metal objects such as coins, keys, belts, jewellery and any clothing with zips or clips must be removed before the scan.**

Are there any risks from the radioactive tracer?

The radioactive tracer is used as sparingly as possible, and the benefits of this scan far outweigh the small risk from radiation. The radiation dose you will receive is like the radiation received from natural sources in **3 years**. Drinking plenty of fluids and emptying your bladder regularly will help to remove the radiation.

For 24 hours after your appointment all patients should sit on the toilet when passing urine. This is to make sure that all the urine gets properly flushed down the toilet as it will be slightly radioactive.

Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

Let us know in advance if you may be pregnant or are breastfeeding.

This is important because of the small risk of childhood cancer from the radiation that we use.

If you have male healthcare records and were registered female at birth, please talk to the technologist at your appointment so that they can rule out the possibility of pregnancy. This information will not be recorded or shared without your consent.

How is the scan performed?

- In order to give you the radioactive tracer, a cannula (small plastic tube) will be placed in a vein in your arm.

- You will lie on the scanning bed and will then have a small amount of radioactive liquid injected into the cannula. This will not make you feel any different.
- The gamma camera will then be placed over your abdomen and pictures will be taken continuously for **1 hour**. You must lie still but you can breathe normally.
- You will then have another scan on the same scanner where the gamma camera will move very slowly around you taking pictures continuously. This will take around **35 minutes** and is followed by a CT scan which will take less than **2 minutes**.

After your scan

Results

Results will be sent to the doctor or specialist who referred you for the scan.

Travelling after your scan

Some major event/ transport venues have very sensitive radiation detectors. These detectors could be triggered by the small amount of radioactivity remaining in your body on the days following your scan. If you're planning to travel within **7 days** following your scan, we recommend that you carry your appointment letter with you.

Information for other hospitals or care homes

*Within the **4 days** following your scan:*

If you are admitted to a care home or hospital (other than the RUH), or if you are cared for by a healthcare worker in your home, please ask them to contact the RUH Clinical Imaging and Measurement Department. Their employer might need to register with the Health and Safety Executive to show that their staff are aware of the small amount of radioactivity that is present for a few days after your scan.

If you have any concerns or questions about your scan, or you need this information in another format such as larger print, please telephone: **01225 82 6630.**

Clinical Imaging and Measurement Department
Zone B, Department B58
Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust
Combe Park, Bath, BA1 3NG
01225 82 6630 | www.ruh.nhs.uk

Please contact the Patient Support and Complaints Team (PSCT/ known previously as PALS) if you would like to feedback your experience of the hospital. Email: ruh-tr.psct@nhs.net or telephone: **01225 82 5656.**

Date of publication: October 2026 | Ref: RUH/NM/064v10
© Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust