

# Your Child's DMSA Kidney Scan

You must also read the appointment letter and any enclosures carefully



## What is a Kidney Scan?

A kidney scan is a diagnostic procedure, which looks at how well your child's kidneys are functioning. It is different to an x-ray and other types of scans. It involves an injection of a small amount of radioactive liquid and imaging with a special camera.

### Is there any preparation for this scan?

Your child can eat and take medication as normal at all times.

Please make sure that your child drinks plenty of fluids on the day before and on the morning of their scan. This can make it easier for the technologist to find their veins and give them their injection. They can use the toilet as normal.

If you wish, you may bring food or drink with you for your child to have while the pictures are being taken.

We have a DVD player and a few DVDs. You may like to bring your child's favourite DVD to watch during the scan, especially if you feel that this will help your child to keep still during the scan.

It is important that you let us know in advance if your child is, or may be, **pregnant** or **breast-feeding** - due to the radiation involved, there is a very small risk to an unborn or breast-feeding child. (Note: this leaflet is given to children up to the age of 18).

### Who can come with your child for this scan?

As we have only one waiting room, we advise your child not to be accompanied by other children or pregnant women to help to minimise the radiation exposure to these people.



## Finding the Clinical Imaging and Measurement Department

The Clinical Imaging and Measurement Department is located in Zone C, Department C16.

### How is the scan performed?

A technician will give your child a small injection into a vein in their arm. This contains a small amount of slightly radioactive liquid. This will **not** make your child feel any different.

The scan will be performed two to three hours later. This time scale is needed to allow the injection to be taken into the kidneys.

Your child will lie on a bed with a special camera underneath. Two or three pictures will be taken, each of which takes about 10 minutes. It is important that your child lies still while the pictures are being taken.

Your child will not feel any different while the pictures are being taken. You can stay with your child at all times.

### Why is your child offered a numbing cream?

A small amount of numbing cream can be applied to your child's arm or hand 30 minutes before the injection. This cream numbs the surface of the skin, taking away the sharp prick when the needle is inserted for the injection.

## **Will your child need to stay at the hospital between the injection and the scan?**

No, your child will be free to leave the department with you and he/she can eat, drink, use the toilet and take medication as normal. If you do leave the hospital, it is very important that you attend the department in time for the scan.

## **How will the scan affect your child?**

Your child should not feel any different after the injection or the scan.

For **24 hours** after the injection, your child should sit down on the toilet when passing urine to prevent any splashes.

## **Are there any risks from the radioactive liquid?**

The radioactive liquid is used as sparingly as possible and the amount used is carefully calculated according to your child's weight. The benefits of this scan far outweigh the small risk from radiation. The radiation dose your child will receive is similar to the radiation that he/she receives from natural sources in a year.

## **Will the radiation affect other people?**

The radiation dose to people around your child is low and therefore is not a cause for concern.



## How will you get the results of your child's scan?

You will not be given any results on the day of the scan. The consultant radiologist will, within a few days, send a report to the doctor or specialist who referred your child for the scan.

## Travelling after your child's scan

Some airports, seaports, train stations, bus stations and major sporting event venues have installed very sensitive radiation detectors. It is possible that these detectors may be triggered by the small amount of radioactivity remaining in your child's body on the days following the scan. Therefore, if you are planning to travel with your child within **seven days** following his/her scan, it is recommended that you carry their appointment letter to show to officials if necessary.

## Information for other hospitals

Within the **four days** following your child's scan:

If your child is admitted to a hospital (other than the RUH), or if they are cared for by a healthcare worker at home, please ask the healthcare worker 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 the scan.

This page is intentionally blank



This page is intentionally blank

## Additional information

If you have any concerns or questions with regard to this procedure, or you need this information in another format such as larger print, please telephone the Clinical Imaging and Measurement Department using the phone number below:

**Clinical Imaging and Measurement: 01225 824080**

Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust  
Combe Park, Bath BA1 3NG  
01225 428331 [www.ruh.nhs.uk](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk)

Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) if you require this leaflet in a different format, or would like to feedback your experience of the hospital.

Email [ruh-tr.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ruh-tr.pals@nhs.net) or telephone 01225 825656.