

## Your Baby's Thyroid Scan

**You must also read the appointment letter and any enclosures carefully**



## What is a Thyroid Scan?

A nuclear medicine thyroid scan is a diagnostic procedure, which helps assess how well your baby's thyroid gland is functioning. It is different to an x-ray and other types of scans.

### Is there any preparation for this scan?

**It is important that you follow all the instructions in the appointment letter.**

Your baby should continue to take Thyroxine.

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

As we only have one waiting room, we advise you not to bring other children or pregnant women along to accompany your baby, in order 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 mix a very small amount of radioactive liquid with some of your baby's milk. You will be asked to give this bottle to your baby, followed by the milk remaining in the other bottle. The radioactive milk will **not** affect your baby.

You will be in the department for approximately 45 minutes.



You will then be free to leave the department with your baby until the scan is performed approximately four hours later.

During the scan, your baby will need to lie on a bed and two images will be taken, each taking five minutes. Your baby will not feel any different whilst the images are being taken.

You can stay with your baby at all times.

### **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 baby's body weight. The benefits of this scan far outweigh the small risk from radiation, and the radioactive liquid is quickly eliminated from your baby's body. The radiation dose your baby will receive is similar to the radiation that he/she would receive from natural sources in a year.

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

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

### **How will you get the results of your baby'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 baby for the scan.

## Travelling after your baby'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 baby's body on the days following the scan. Therefore, if you are planning to travel within **seven days** following your scan, it is recommended that you carry your baby's appointment letter to show to officials if necessary.

## Information for other hospitals

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

If your baby 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 very small amount of radioactivity that is present for a few days after the scan.



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## 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.