

Your Child's DMSA Kidney Scan

You must also read the appointment letter
and any enclosures carefully



What is a Kidney Scan?

A nuclear medicine 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.

Is there any preparation for this scan?

There is no preparation for this scan.

Your child can eat, drink and take all their medication as normal.

If your child wears nappies, please bring a spare one along with you as it may be necessary to change it for the scan.

You may wish to bring a drink or snack with you, as your child can have these during the scan.

We have a DVD player in the department and some DVDs. You may wish to bring a favourite DVD with you on the day of the scan, especially if you feel that this would help your child to stay still.

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 Departments

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

The Children's Outpatients Department is in Zone B, Department B11.

How is the scan performed?

The appointment letter asks you to take your child to Children's Outpatients. A nurse or doctor will apply a small amount of numbing cream or spray to a small area of skin on your child's arm or hand. After a short period of time, a small venflon/cannula is inserted into a vein in this area.

You will then be asked to bring your child to the Clinical Imaging and Measurement Department where a technician will put a small amount of slightly radioactive liquid through the venflon. This is in preparation for the scan, which will take place two to three hours later. This timescale is needed to allow enough of the radioactive liquid to be taken into your child's kidneys.

The liquid will not make your child feel any different. The technician will then remove the venflon and you and your child will be free to do as you wish until the scan.

When you return to the Clinical Imaging and Measurement Department for the scan, your child will be asked to lie on a bed with a special camera underneath. Two or three pictures will be

taken, each picture lasting about 10 minutes. It is important that your child lies still during this time.

You will be able to stay with your child at all times.

What is a venflon/cannula?

A venflon, or cannula, is a small plastic tube which is inserted into a vein with a small needle. The needle is then removed and the plastic tube remains in the vein allowing the technician access to the vein.

Will inserting the venflon hurt your child?


The nurse or doctor who inserts the venflon is specially trained in performing this procedure. The numbing cream or spray that is applied to your child's arm or hand will take away the sharp prick felt when the needle is inserted.

Will your child need to stay at the hospital in the time between the administration of the liquid and the scan?

No, you and your child are free to do as you please. However, if you do leave the hospital, it is very important that you return to the department on 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 (unless they are using nappies).

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 body 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 would receive 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 within **seven days** following your scan, it is recommended that you carry your child's 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.



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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

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 or telephone 01225 825656.