

## Your Child'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 child's thyroid gland is functioning. It is different to an x-ray and other types of scans.

### Is there any preparation for this scan?

If your child is taking **thyroxine** or **carbimazole** it is possible that some of your child's medication will affect the scan. Therefore **it is important that you phone the Clinical Imaging and Measurement Department when you receive the appointment letter to discuss their medication.** The phone number is given on the back page.

We have a CD player/radio in the department so your child can listen to music or a story during their scan. You may wish to bring a favourite CD with you on the day of the scan, especially if you feel that this would help your child to stay still.

Your child can eat and drink as normal at all times.

### 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, probably 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 very small amount of radioactive liquid through the venflon. This is in preparation for the scan which will take place 20 minutes later. This timescale is needed to allow enough of the radioactive liquid to be taken into your child's thyroid gland.

This liquid will not make your child feel any different. The technician will then remove the venflon.

For the scan, your child will be asked to lie on a bed with a special camera above, and close to, his/her head and chest. Several pictures will be taken, each one takes about five 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. When the scan is finished the technician will remove the plastic tube.

## 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 put onto your child's arm or hand will take away the sharp prick felt when the needle is inserted.

## How will the scan affect your child?

This scan will not make your child feel any different.

For **24 hours** after the scan, your child should sit on the toilet when passing urine to avoid 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. The injection will not affect the way your child feels and the radioactive substance is quickly eliminated from his/her body.



## 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 radioactivity that is present for a few days.

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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.