

Parathyroid Scan

Patients must also read their appointment letter and any enclosures carefully



What is a Parathyroid Scan?

A parathyroid scan is a diagnostic procedure, which looks at the function of your parathyroid gland. 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.

How do you prepare for this scan?

You can eat and take medication as normal.

Please drink 2-3 litres of fluids (not including coffee or alcohol) beginning the day before your appointment until your appointment time. This can make it easier for the technologist to find your veins and give you your injection. You can use the toilet as normal.

Females: Due to the radiation involved, there is a very small risk to an unborn or breastfeeding child. Therefore, it is important that you let us know in advance if you are, or may be, **pregnant** or **breastfeeding**.

Who can accompany you for this scan?

Please do not bring a child or pregnant women with you on the day of your scan because of the radiation involved.

If you bring someone to keep you company between your injection and scan, they will receive a small radiation dose while they are close to you. This dose is similar to the radiation dose they receive from natural sources over 1 week. They can reduce this dose by staying further away from you, for example sitting across a table or across a room instead of right next to you.



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 small amount of radioactive liquid will be injected into a vein in your arm. This will **not** make you feel any different. You may then be asked to sit in the waiting room for about 10 minutes.

After this time, you will be asked to lie on a scanning bed. A special detector will be placed very close to your head and chest. Two pictures will be taken, during which time you will be asked to lie very still and breathe normally.

These pictures will take about 10 minutes. You will then be free to do as you please until the third appointment time, which is two hours after the injection.

At the third appointment time, you will be asked to lie on the scanning bed again, and the same two pictures will be repeated, which will take about 10 minutes.

After these, some further pictures will be taken which involve the camera moving in a circle around your head, neck and chest. Again you will need to lie still and breathe normally. These pictures will take about 40 minutes.

You will not feel any different during the scan. You may have to remove clothing from your chest area. If you are wearing a necklace or earrings, you will need to remove these.

There will always be someone in the scanning room but not necessarily close to you.

Will you need to stay at the hospital between appointments?

No, you will be free to do as you please. However, if you do leave the hospital, it is very important that you are back at the department in time for your next appointment.

How will the scan affect you?

You should not feel any different. The scan will not affect your ability to drive home so it is not necessary for anyone to accompany you unless you so wish.

For **24 hours** after the injection, all patients should sit on the toilet when passing urine.

Are there any risks from the radioactive liquid?

The radioactive liquid 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 similar to the radiation that you receive from natural sources in two years.

The injection will not affect the way you feel and the radioactive substance is quickly eliminated from your body. You can help this process by drinking plenty of fluid for the rest of the day and emptying your bladder more often than normal.



Will the radiation affect other people?

The radiation reduces after your injection, and is low once your scan is complete. After you have had your scan, the radiation dose to people who are close to you is similar to the radiation dose they receive from natural sources over a few days. If you wish to reduce this risk further, you can avoid spending time close to them until 6 hours after your injection.

Children and pregnant women have a higher risk from radiation, so you should avoid spending time close to them until 12 hours after your injection. They can be in the same room as you, but try to avoid sitting next to them.

How will you get the results?

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 you for the scan.

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

Information for other hospitals or care homes

Within the **four 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.



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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 Department: 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.