

Adult Spleen Scan

Patients must also read their appointment letter and any enclosures carefully



What is a Spleen Scan?

A Spleen scan is a diagnostic procedure, to look at the function of your spleen. It is different to an x-ray and other types of scans. It involves an injection of a small amount of radioactive liquid and then 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 come with you for this scan?

It is fine if you want someone to come with you on the day of the scan. However, because we have only one waiting room, we advise you not to be accompanied by 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 technologist will inject a small amount of radioactive liquid into a vein in your arm. This will not make you feel any different.

You will then sit back in the waiting room and after 20 minutes you will be taken to the scanning room and asked to lie on a scanning bed on your back. Some pictures will then be taken using a special camera. This takes approximately 30 - 40 minutes

You do not have to remove any clothing, you will not be enclosed in a tunnel and you will not be left alone during the scan.

How will the scan affect you?

You should not feel any different. The procedure 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 a year.

The injection will not affect the way you feel and the radioactive substance is quickly eliminated from your body. To help speed up this process, you can drink plenty of fluids after your scan and empty your bladder more often than normal.

Will the radiation affect other people?

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

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: 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.