

Lymphoscintigram

Radiology

The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.

- Wash your hands with soap and warm water and dry thoroughly. Use hand gel, if provided, in care facilities.
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting stay at home and do not visit relatives that are vulnerable in hospital or in residential care. You will spread the illness.
- Keep the environment clean and safe. Let's work together to keep it that way. Prevention is better than cure.

This leaflet tells you about having a lymphoscintigram. It explains what is involved and what the possible risks are. It is not meant to replace an informed discussion between you and your doctor.

What is Nuclear Imaging?

Nuclear imaging is a way of imaging different parts of the body using a small amount of radioactive isotope tracer attached to different chemicals. The radioactive isotope tracer is normally given as an injection into a vein but can be inhaled or swallowed depending upon the test.

These radioactive isotope tracers give off gamma rays which are similar to X-rays.

A gamma camera is used to detect the rays and produce an image on the computer. Unlike ordinary X-rays nuclear imaging can be used to show how well an organ is working as well as what it looks like.

What is a Lymphoscintigram?

A lymphoscintigram is used to assess the drainage of your lymphatic system. This will help your doctors find the cause of your oedema.

The radioactive isotope tracer for this scan has to be given as 4 injections, just under the skin, in the spaces between either your toes or fingers on both sides, depending on where your oedema is present.

After your injections, a series of images will be taken over several hours in order to identify how your lymphatic system is draining and if there are any areas of obstruction.

Is there any preparation?

No, you can eat, drink and take any medication as normal.

Can I bring a relative / friend?

Yes, but they should be over 18 and not pregnant.

Children under 16 years attending for a scan should be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

What if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?

If you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant you should inform the department before attending for your scan. Also certain radioactive substances are excreted in breast milk. If you are breastfeeding you should tell us prior to coming for your scan, so we can advise you of any special precautions.

What happens during the scan?

First you will be brought into the scan room and asked to lie on an imaging couch or sit in a chair in front of the camera. You will not have to get undressed but may be asked to remove metallic objects such as jewellery.

Once in position the radioactive isotope tracer will be given and the pictures will start immediately.

The first series of images will last approximately 1 hour and involve multiple images of about 5-10 minutes each.

After this you may be allowed to leave the department and asked to return a few times over the next 1-3 hours for additional images.

How long will it take?

This depends on how fast the radioactive isotope tracer is transported by your lymphatic system. We will continue to image until the radioactive isotope tracer reaches your abdomen or chest depending if we are scanning your arms or legs. You should therefore plan to with us for up to 6 Hours.

Are there any side effects?

The injection does not cause any side effects nor will it make you sleepy. You will still be able to drive and carry on with any normal activities.

What are the risks?

Most things that we do in life or in medicine have a small risk and we want you to understand any risks involved. Please remember that your doctor would not recommend this test if they did not think that the risks were outweighed by the potential benefits.

Radiation

The radioactive isotope tracer injection exposes you to gamma rays which are a form of radiation similar to X-rays. We use as little radiation as possible - the amount used is similar to that in many other X-ray or nuclear medicine scans and is the same as a few months' worth of the natural background radiation to which we are all exposed.

When do I get the results?

We cannot give you the results of the scan on the day you attend.

The scan will be reviewed and a written report sent to the consultant / GP who referred you. Your consultant will then arrange a follow up appointment to discuss the results of your scan.

What should I do if I have a query about my appointment?

If you have any queries about your scan or wish to alter the appointment please contact the department on:
01902 307999 ext. 6347 Monday - Friday between 9am and 4pm

If you need an interpreter, please let us know when you receive your appointment and we will arrange one for you.

Please note that in view of patient confidentiality, we are unable to discuss any details concerning this appointment with anyone other than you.

Where can I get further information?

Websites:

For general information about radionuclide tests, visit The British Nuclear Medicine Society website: www.bnms.org.uk

If you wish to know more about the radiation used in medical examinations information can be found on the Public Health England website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england

Radiology Department

The nuclear imaging department is on the 2nd floor of the radiology department

The radiology department is situated close to Greggs bakery in the atrium area in Zone A2

A site map can be found on the reverse of your appointment letter.

Transport Information

Zone A: A2 Radiology Department

The nearest car parks are: P5 & P6. Please allow time to park as our car parking areas may be busy. Car-parking is "pay as you leave". There are designated spaces for disabled.

Public transport:

Details of the buses serving to the hospital are on our website: www.royalwolverhamptonhospitals.nhs.uk

Alternatively you can visit www.nxbus.co.uk to plan your journey or ring them on 0121 254 7272.

English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowałiby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。