

Patient Information

Nuclear Medicine

Ground Floor (Access via X-Ray Dept.)

Clifford Bridge Rd, Coventry, CV2 2DX

Child DMSA kidney scan

What is a DMSA kidney scan?

A DMSA scan is a Nuclear Medicine imaging study looking at the kidneys. It is used to see how well each kidney is working and can be used to detect any damaged area of the kidneys, for example as a result of repeated urinary tract infections. It is also used to assess the kidney function for many different disorders of the kidneys.

We provide this information to help you prepare for your child's visit to the Nuclear Medicine Department. It is important that you read all of the information enclosed about your appointment.

Please be prepared to be with us for up to 5 hours.

Important

Please contact the department as soon as possible if:

- If your child has had a recent urinary tract infection (in the last 3 months)
- Your child has any special needs
- You will be using ambulance transport to attend your appointment and your appointment time is after midday.

Telephone: 02476 968212

Mon-Fri 08:30am – 5.00pm



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Preparation

If your child has recently had (in the last 3 months), or is currently suffering with a urinary tract infection, please contact the department. It may be necessary for us to reschedule your child's scan.

On the day of the test, your child may take medications as normal and can eat and drink as normal.

Please try to avoid bringing other small children or siblings with you unless this cannot be avoided.

Your child will not need to get undressed for the scan but they should wear clothes containing as little metal as possible, for example zips, buttons, clasps) as this can interfere with the scan.

What will happen to my child when they come for the scan?

The test involves the administration of a small injection of a radioactive isotope. The injection allows us to take pictures of your child's kidneys.

To allow the radioactive isotope to be administered, a cannula must first be inserted into a vein. To reduce the discomfort of the cannula insertion, your child may have local anaesthetic cream applied to their skin. This will numb the skin so that the needle used when the cannula is inserted does not hurt so much. The cream has to be applied and left on the skin for around 30 minutes. Alternatively, a freeze spray may be applied to provide a similar effect.

Depending on the age of your child, we may take you to the children's ward for your child to be cannulated by one of the specialist paediatric doctors. It may be that you have to wait in this area for some time for one of these specialist doctors to become available, especially if there are other urgent issues that require their attention. A member of staff will escort you to the children's ward and bring you back to Nuclear Medicine after the cannulation procedure.

The radioactive injection will be given through the cannula in the Nuclear Medicine department. After the injection, the cannula will be removed and

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you will be given a time to return to take the images of your child's kidneys. This will be approximately 2 to 4 hours later. We need this delay to allow the kidneys to take up the injection. The images take approximately 20 to 30 minutes to acquire.

You can stay with your child throughout the scan and you may be required to assist keeping your child still. They will need to lie very still while the images are taken. The pictures are taken by a special camera called a gamma camera. In order to take high quality images, this camera will come close to your child but will not touch them.

Whilst the pictures are being taken, your child may be able to watch a DVD to help them feel more at ease. Please feel free to bring along any favourites. It may also be helpful to bring a favourite toy with you to help distract your child.

Whilst the images or pictures are taken of your child's kidneys, a member of staff will be observing them at all times.

Please ensure your child drinks plenty throughout the day to avoid feeling dehydrated. If your child wears nappies, please ensure these are changed frequently, and wash your hands thoroughly after each change.

What happens after the scan?

You and your child will be asked to wait in the department for a few minutes whilst the images are processed and checked. Please note that we are **not** permitted to discuss the results with you. A specialist doctor will issue a report and send it to the doctor who requested the test usually within 10 days.

Will the injection make my child feel any different?

The injection is slightly radioactive but will not make your child feel any different.

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How much radiation is involved?

For this scan it is necessary to inject a small amount of radioactive tracer. The small risk from this tracer is outweighed by the information that will be gained by taking the scan. A doctor will have checked the request to ensure that this is the appropriate test for your child.

The amount we administer is very small and is similar to the amount of radiation you would receive from natural background sources in approximately 1 to 3 months. We can assure you that all safeguards to minimize the radiation dose to your child are taken.

Going home

After the scan your child should drink plenty of fluids for the next 6 hours. This will allow the isotope to pass out through his or her body as quickly as possible.

- If your child is toilet trained, they should go to the toilet as often as possible.
- If your child is in nappies, you should change them frequently and dispose of them into a refuse bin. Wash your hands thoroughly after changing.
- Your child should avoid prolonged close contact between siblings (under 5) or other small children for the remainder of the day.
- Your child should also avoid close contact with anyone pregnant for the remainder of the day.

Directions and Car Parking

The department is a short walk from the main entrance on the ground floor. To find the Nuclear Medicine department enter the hospital through the main entrance and turn left on to the West wing. Follow the signs for X-ray along the corridor. X-ray is located on the left hand side just past Fracture Clinic. Enter X-ray reception and continue ahead, following signs for Nuclear Medicine. The department is located through the double doors, where you will enter into the main reception area of the department.

Hospital car parking is available to all hospital patients and visitors. Spaces are limited so please allow plenty of time to locate a car parking space. A charge is payable. Further information including directions, parking charges and site maps are available on the Trust website (www.uhcw.nhs.uk).

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Relatives and Escorts

You may wish to bring a friend or relative to accompany you for your investigation. It may be useful to bring someone if you do not speak English very well or if you have any special needs. Please do not bring any additional children or pregnant individuals with you.

Facilities available in the hospital

- Chilled water dispenser in the department
- Grand Union coffee shop, M&S Food Hall and WHSmith in the main reception foyer
- Three hospital restaurants

More information

All the staff would like to make your visit as pleasant as possible. If you have any concerns please talk to the person looking after you or contact us on the phone number overleaf.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 8212 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk

Document History

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