

Nuclear Medicine Kidney Scan (Paediatric)

Information for patients, relatives and carers

① For more information, please contact: Radiology Department

York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE

Nuclear Medicine

Telephone: 01904 725936

About this leaflet

In this leaflet we tell you about the procedure known as a Nuclear Medicine kidney scan. We explain what is involved and what the possible risks are. The information in this leaflet is not meant to replace informed discussion between you and your doctor, but can act as a starting point for such a discussion.

What is a Kidney Scan?

This is a Nuclear Medicine diagnostic test that uses a radioactive tracer to enable us to image the function of your child's kidneys.

Are there any alternatives?

Nuclear Medicine scans use radioactive tracers to get information about tissues and organs that cannot be obtained using other scanning techniques. The doctor has decided this test is the most appropriate for your child.

How do we prepare for the scan?

There is no special preparation required, your child can continue to eat and drink normally. If you are pregnant, we suggest arranging for somebody else to bring your child for the scan. If there is nobody else available to do so, please telephone us on 01904 725936 for York Hospital

What happens on arrival?

If your child's scan has been booked at York Hospital you will be asked to arrive at the Child Assessment Unit.

When you arrive to the unit, your child will have anaesthetic cream applied to their arm and backs of hand. Once the anaesthetic cream has taken effect, your child will have a small cannula (tube) inserted into a vein. They will be given a small injection of a radioactive tracer through this cannula.

After the injection, you and your child may leave the unit. Your child may eat and drink as normal. Three hours after the injection, you should go to the Nuclear Medicine department for the scan. The time will be confirmed for you when the injection is done.

Why do we have to wait three hours?

The kidneys filter the tracer out of your child's blood stream. It is important that we have the maximum amount of radioactivity in your child's kidneys and very little left circulating in the blood. Evidence has shown that the best time to get an image is three hours after the injection.

What does the scan involve?

The scan is done using a machine called a gamma camera. You will not need to remove your child's clothes for the scan.

Your child will be asked to lie on a bed while the gamma camera takes the pictures. You may accompany your child at all times. The scan will take about 20 minutes and it is important that your child stays as still as possible. The scanning procedure is not painful.

What happens after the scan?

After the scan you and your child will be free to leave the Nuclear Medicine department.

We recommend that your child drinks plenty of fluids for the rest of the day as this will help the kidneys flush any remaining tracer from the body.

Your child's urine will be slightly radioactive for the rest of the day. If your child wears nappies, we suggest you use gloves and an apron for nappy changing (we can provide you with some). It is also very important to wash your hands well after nappy changes or helping your child with toileting.

Are there any risks or complications?

Nuclear Medicine procedures are safe diagnostic imaging tests. Side effects from the radioactive tracers are extremely rare and usually mild, for example a rash, itching or nausea. If your child is going to have any side effects, it would normally be within a couple of hours of the injection and may last up to 48 hours.

The amount of radioactive tracer injected is very small and after 24 hours the radioactive tracer will have passed out of your child's body.

Further guidance has been published by Public Health England, visit website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ionising-radiation-from-medical-imaging-examinations-safety-advice>

Results

You will not be given the results on the day of your scans. A report will be sent to the doctor who asked us to do the test. They will then let you know the results.

What if we have any other questions?

If you have any worries or questions about your scan, please feel free to telephone us on the telephone number below and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

York Nuclear Medicine:

01904 725936

Tell us what you think of this leaflet

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact: Nuclear Medicine, Radiology Department, York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE or telephone 01904 725936.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS offers impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers. We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email yhs-tr.patientexperienceteam@nhs.net

An answer phone is available out of hours.

Teaching, training and research

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of health and healthcare in our community. Healthcare students may observe consultations for this purpose. You can opt out if you do not want students to observe. We may also ask you if you would like to be involved in our research.

Leaflets in alternative languages or formats

If you would like this information in a different format, including braille or easy read, or translated into a different language, please speak to a member of staff in the ward or department providing your care.

Patient Information Leaflets can be accessed via the Trust's Patient Information Leaflet website: www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk/your-visit/patient-information-leaflets/

Owner	Joanne Hopkins, Radiographer
Date first issued	October 2007
Review Date	September 2024
Version	6 (issued September 2027)
Approved by	Nuclear Medicine Modality Meeting
Document Reference	PIL775 v6
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