



York and Scarborough
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Parathyroid Scan

Information for patients, relatives and carers

① For more information, please contact:

Radiology Department

York Hospital,
Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE

Nuclear Medicine
Tel: 01904 725936

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About this leaflet

This leaflet tells you about your parathyroid scan. It explains what is involved and what the possible risks are. It is not meant to replace discussion between you and your doctor, but we hope you find the information helpful.

What is a parathyroid scan?

Your doctor would like information about your parathyroid glands. A parathyroid scan uses a radioactive tracer to enable us to image the physiology (function) of your parathyroid glands.

Are there any alternatives?

There may be alternative imaging studies available. However, your doctor has decided this test is the most appropriate for you, and it gives different information to other types of scan. If you have any concerns, please discuss them with the doctor who referred you to us.

What preparation is needed before the scan?

There is no preparation needed for this scan. You will not need to remove your clothes for the scan, but you will need to remove any metal items from around your neck and chest.

What does the parathyroid scan involve?

On arrival in Nuclear Medicine, you will have a small injection of a radioactive tracer into a vein in your arm. The injection shows up your thyroid gland and any overactive parathyroid tissue. There will be a 10-minute wait and then you will be taken into the scanning room and asked to lie on the bed. A special camera (gamma camera) will take some pictures for approximately 20 minutes. The gamma camera will be quite close to your face. Once these pictures are completed you will be free to leave the department, but you need to return 90 minutes after the injection for us to take more detailed pictures, which should last around 40 minutes.

What happens after the parathyroid scan?

When the scan is finished you can go home or back to work. We recommend that you drink plenty of fluids for the rest of the day and empty your bladder frequently. This helps to wash the radioactive injection out of your body.

Results

A report will be sent to the doctor who requested the test, who will then get in touch with you. You will not be given the results on the day of your scan.

Are there any risks or complications?

The scanning procedure is not painful, and you stay awake during the test. Nuclear Medicine procedures are safe diagnostic imaging tests. It is common for you to have a metallic taste in your mouth after the injection, but side effects from the injection are extremely rare. If there are any, they are usually mild, for example a rash, itching or feeling faint and are most likely to happen within a couple of hours following the injection. Symptoms could last for up to 48 hours.

The amount of radioactivity involved is small, and after 24 hours the radioactive tracer will have passed out of your body.

Due to the radiation within you after the injection, we advise no close prolonged contact with pregnant women or children for 24 hours after the injection.

There is radiation in the air and ground all around us called background radiation. Most radioisotope scans give you the equivalent of half a year to a year and a half's background radiation.

What if I have any other questions?

If you have any worries or questions about your scan, please feel free to telephone us on 01904 725936, and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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, York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE or telephone 01904 726696.

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.

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 pals@york.nhs.uk.

An answer phone is available out of hours.

Leaflets in alternative languages or formats

Please telephone or email if you require this information in a different language or format, for example Braille, large print or audio.

如果你要求本資 不同的 或 式提供 , 電
或發電

Jeżeli niniejsze informacje potrzebne są w innym języku lub formacie, należy zadzwonić lub wysłać wiadomość e-mail

Bu bilgileri değişik bir lisanda ya da formatta istiyorsanız lütfen telefon ediniz ya da e-posta gönderiniz

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