

Where is the Nuclear Medicine department?

We are located in the basement of the Tower Block. On reaching the basement follow the signs to Nuclear Medicine, which is at the end of the corridor past Medical Physics.

Contact us

If you have any queries or need any further information, please contact the Nuclear Medicine department on 01872 252330.

If for any reason you cannot attend, please let us know so that another patient can have your appointment.

All our images are now stored digitally. If you would like further information please ask for a leaflet at reception when you arrive.

If you would like this leaflet in large print, braille, audio version or in another language, please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01872 252793



HIDA scan



Who is this leaflet for?

Your doctor would like you to have a nuclear medicine Hida scan and has arranged for you to visit our department. This leaflet aims to answer any questions you may have, but please don't hesitate to contact us if you need any more information.

What is a Hida scan?

This is a sensitive test which is used to examine your gall bladder.

Are there any alternatives?

You could have an ultrasound scan, although you may need this as well as your Hida scan.

Do I need to prepare for it?

Yes. Please do not eat or drink anything for 12 hours before your appointment time. We would advise you to wear loose and comfortable clothing. Please bring any prescribed medication with you to take after the scan has been performed. If you are diabetic please call us when you receive this appointment.

What will happen?

When you arrive in the department you will be given a small injection of a radioactive tracer. It is very unlikely that you will have any side effects from this injection. You may be asked to wait for the injection to work for 40 minutes, or you may be imaged straight away.

How is the scan performed?

You will be asked to lie on a bed for about 80 minutes, while the radiographer takes pictures. The camera will be positioned close to you but you should not feel claustrophobic. During this time you may be asked to drink a very creamy milk drink.

It is possible that you may be asked to come back several hours later for more pictures. The radiographer will inform you if this is the case.

Is it suitable for everyone?

If there is a chance that you may be pregnant or are breast-feeding, please contact us before your appointment date. If you are a woman of childbearing age, we will ask you to confirm that you are not pregnant.

What happens afterwards?

You can go home or back to work - in other words carry on as normal. You may eat and drink normally again and take your prescribed medication.

Are there any risks?

We ensure that the amount of radiation you receive is as small as possible. It is similar to the natural radiation you would receive from living in Cornwall for three months.

Are there any side effects?

No, the radioactivity is eliminated from your body very quickly.

Can I bring someone with me to the department?

Yes, but please do not bring pregnant women, or children unless they are the patient.

If you have any special requirements regarding manual handling, or if you suffer from urinary incontinence, please inform us before you attend your appointment so that we can make suitable arrangements to help you.

When will I get my results?

We are unable to give you the results of your scan on the day you attend. However, we will send a report to the doctor who asked us to do the scan as soon as possible. If a hospital consultant arranged your scan, a follow up appointment should be sent to you in due course.

Where can I park?

Parking is in the pay and display car parks. There are 'dropping off' points and parking for the disabled near the main entrances. Please allow plenty of time when coming for your appointment. The Park and Ride bus from Langarth Park (Threemilestone) and Tregurra Park (eastern Truro) also stops at the hospital.