



Royal Cornwall Hospitals
NHS Trust

Dynamic kidney scan (renogram)



One + all | we care

Who is this leaflet for?

Your doctor would like you to have a nuclear medicine kidney 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 dynamic kidney scan?

Also known as a renogram, this is a sensitive test that shows how well your kidneys are working. It provides information about the blood flow to your kidneys and how well each kidney is producing urine. It also shows if there are any obstructions to your urine flow.

This webpage gives further information however the procedure may vary.

www.bnms.org.uk/page/Renogram

Are there any alternatives?

You could have an IVU or CT scan. These provide information about the structure of your kidneys but less information about how your kidneys are working. You may need these tests as well as a renogram.

How do I prepare for it?

Please have three glasses of water about an hour before your appointment time. You may go to the toilet as normal. This will improve the quality of the pictures. Eat normally and keep taking your prescribed medication.

What will happen?

You will have an injection of a drug (called a diuretic) as well as the radioactive tracer so that we can accurately assess your kidney function. These will be administered into a vein in your arm whilst you are on the scanner, and we will start the 30-minute scan immediately. It is very unlikely you will have side effects

With any injection, there is a small risk that some of the tracer may leak around the injection site. The risk associated with this is very small (eg. reddening or darkening of skin) and we will advise on any follow up in the unlikely event that this should affect you.

How is the scan performed?

You will be asked to lie still on a bed for about 30 minutes, while the radiographer/technologist takes pictures. The camera will be positioned underneath you, but you will not usually have to remove any clothing. After this, you may be asked to empty your bladder in front of the camera while sitting on a commode (for women) or standing (for men). This only takes a few minutes and is not needed for all patients.

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. Those patients aged between 12 and 55 years may be asked their pregnancy status. If there is any doubt we will have to rebook your test, unless the test is urgent.

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.

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 1 month. Radioactivity is eliminated from your body very quickly and allergic reactions are very rare.

Do I need to take any precautions?

No. However if a family member/parent or friend usually helps you (the patient) with any personal care, please be aware that they may receive a very small exposure to radiation in the 24 hours after your scan. This radiation exposure is usually no greater than the natural, background radiation that would be received from spending a couple of weeks in Cornwall. The person who helps you will need to be informed of this exposure and agree to help you around the time of your examination. Please call nuclear medicine on 01872 252230 to discuss this with our staff.

Can I bring someone with me?

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

When will I get my results?

We are unable to give you the results of your scan on the day you attend.

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 will be arranged for you.

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.

There is also a park and ride service at Langarth (West Truro) and Tregurra (East Truro) which operates a frequent bus service to the Hospital.

Please allow plenty of time when coming for your appointment.

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 252290.

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

**Please note that the Royal Cornwall
Hospital is a smoke-free environment.
Smoking is not permitted inside the hospital
or on the grounds at any time.**

If you would like this leaflet in large print,
braille, audio version or in another
language, please contact the General
Office on 01872 252690

