



Royal Cornwall Hospitals
NHS Trust

Meckel's scan



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Who is this leaflet for?

Your doctor would like you to have a nuclear medicine 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 Meckel's diverticulum scan?

The scan is a sensitive test which is used to demonstrate presence of a Meckel's diverticulum (a small abnormal pouch in the bowel).

Are there any alternatives?

You could have a CT scan or a barium study, although you may need these tests as well as your Meckel's scan.

Do I need to prepare for the scan?

Yes. Please do not eat or drink anything for four hours before your appointment. We would advise you wear loose and comfortable clothing. If you are a diabetic and have any queries please call us when you receive this appointment.

How is the scan carried out?

Shortly after you arrive in the department you will be taken into the gamma camera room and asked to lie on your back on our imaging couch. You will then be given a small injection of a radioactive tracer.

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 your referring doctor, who will contact you. You will not receive results on the day.

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.

We recommend the Park and Ride service at Langarth (West Truro) and Tregurra (East Truro) which operates a frequent bus service to the Hospital.

www.cornwall.gov.uk/parkfortruro

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 inform the department so that another patient can have your appointment.

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.

You will lie on the couch for about an hour, while the radiographer performs the scan. The camera will be positioned close to you but patients do not normally feel claustrophobic.

Is it suitable for everyone?

If there is a chance that you may be pregnant or are breast-feeding, please contact the department before your appointment date. Those patients aged between 12 and 55 years may be asked their pregnancy status.

If you have any mobility problems, 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.

What can I do after the scan?

You can go home or back to work - in other words carry on as normal. You may wish to bring any prescribed medication with you to take after the scan has been performed, as you will then be allowed to eat.

Are there any risks?

No, we will ensure that the amount of radiation you receive is as small as possible. It is similar to the natural radiation dose you would receive from living in Cornwall for 9 to 20 months.

If a family member 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.

Are there any side effects?

It is extremely unlikely that you will experience any side effects from this injection.

Can I bring someone with me?

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

**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

