

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.



Royal Cornwall Hospitals
NHS Trust

SeHCAT

(Bile malabsorption study)

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



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One + all | we care

Who is this leaflet for?

Your doctor would like you to have a nuclear medicine SeHCAT (bile malabsorption) study 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 SeHCAT study?

This is a study to look at how well your body absorbs bile salts. This will help your doctor give you the correct treatment.

Do I need to prepare for it?

Yes, if you are taking **Questran** (colestryramine) or **Colestid / Welchol** (colesevaem) please stop this medication for three days before the SeHCAT appointment and do not re-start it until after the 7 day imaging is complete.

Please continue with other medications and to eat and drink normally. If you have any other appointments for bowel tests in the next two weeks, please inform the staff prior to taking the capsule.

What will happen?

When you arrive we give you a glass of water and ask you to swallow a capsule. This capsule contains a small amount of radioactivity. You may then leave the department, but we will ask you to return in 3 hours. During this time you may eat and drink normally and you may leave the hospital if you wish.

How is the study performed?

You will be asked to lie on a bed for about six minutes, while the radiographer uses the camera to measure the radioactive levels in your body. The camera is quite open and quiet and patients do not usually feel claustrophobic. You will also be given an appointment to return in seven days for the measurements to be repeated.

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. 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 about two weeks.

Should I take any precautions?

Yes. Please avoid non-essential contact with children or pregnant women for the rest of the day.

Can I bring someone with me?

Yes, but please do not bring pregnant women 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 days 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, you will receive a follow up appointment 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.

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

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.