



Royal Cornwall Hospitals
NHS Trust

Pre-surgery Lymph node scan



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Who is this leaflet for?

Your doctor would like you to have a nuclear medicine lymph node scan and has arranged for you to visit our department, prior to your surgery. This leaflet aims to answer any questions you may have, but please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any more information.

What is a lymph node scan?

This is a sensitive test which shows the lymph nodes closest to the area that the doctor is investigating.

Please note the radioactive tracer used for this examination contains human blood products.

This test is performed as part of your surgical procedure so it is essential that you ring us to confirm that you are able to attend. Failure to do so may mean that your surgery is delayed.

Do I need to prepare for the scan?

No, but we would advise you to wear loose and comfortable clothing.

You will usually have this test performed on the day before or on the day of your surgery, therefore you will have been informed of your food and drinking restrictions.

Can I bring someone with me to the department?

Yes, however please do not bring pregnant

persons or children unless they are the patient, due to the radioactivity to be used for your scan.

What will happen?

When you arrive in the department you may be asked to change into a gown. You will be asked to lie on a couch and the radiographer/technologist will explain the procedure to you. You will be given four very small injections around the area under examination. It is very unlikely that you will have any side effects from these injections, and allergic reactions are very rare. The radiographer/technologist will make at least one mark on your skin, for the surgeon. It is essential that you do not wash these marks off.

How is the scan performed?

You will lie on a couch and the camera will be positioned close to the part of the body being studied. The camera is quite open and quiet and patients do not normally feel claustrophobic. The scan could take as long as two hours.

Is it suitable for everyone?

If there is a chance that you may be pregnant or you are breast feeding, please contact the department before your appointment date.

Those patients aged between 12 and 56 years may be asked their pregnancy status. If there is any doubt we will have to rebook your test.

If you have any mobility problems or if you suffer from urinary incontinence please inform us before you attend for your appointment so that we can make suitable arrangements to help you.

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 less than 13 months.

Are there any side effects?

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

Should I take any precautions?

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

When will I get my results?

The radiographer performing the test will prepare your pictures as soon as the test is complete. These images will be used by your surgeon during the operation following your scan.

Where will 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.

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?

The department is 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.

Please note: Your scan and subsequent surgery may be done at different hospital sites.

Contact us

If you have any queries or need any further information, please contact the Nuclear Medicine department on 01872252330

If for any reason you cannot attend, please inform the department 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

