

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. The Park and Ride bus from Langarth Park (Threemilestone) and Tregurra Park (east Truro) also stops at the hospital.

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 situated 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 with fatty meal stimulation



One + all | we care

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, however please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any more information.

What is a Hida scan?

A Hida with fatty meal stimulation scan is a sensitive test which is used to examine your gall bladder.

What is a fatty stimulation scan?

This scan will demonstrate how well your gall bladder empties in response to a milk and cream mixture consumed during the scan.

Are there any alternatives?

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

Do I need to prepare for the scan?

Yes. Please do not eat and drink anything for four 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 ring the department when you receive this appointment.

What will happen?

Shortly after you arrive in the department you will be given a small injection of a radioactive tracer. 50 minutes later we will take you into the scanning room, where you will be asked to lie on your back for the scan. It is very unlikely that you will receive any side effects from this injection.

How is the scan performed?

You will be asked to lie on a bed for about 80 minutes. During this time you will be asked to drink a milk and cream mixture, to stimulate your gall bladder, while the radiographer takes pictures. The camera will be positioned close to you but patients do not normally feel claustrophobic. There is a possibility 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 you are breast feeding, please contact the department before your appointment date. If you are a woman of childbearing age we will be 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, and take any prescribed medication as usual.

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 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 for your appointment so that we can make suitable arrangements to help you.

How do I get my results?

We are unable to give you the results of the scan on the day you attend, but 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 appointment, you should receive a follow up appointment in due course.