

Having a scan of your liver or gall bladder

Nuclear Medicine

Information for Patients

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What is a HIDA scan?

This is a safe and simple procedure, using a small amount of radioactivity to obtain images of your liver and gall bladder (if you have one). The test is performed on a single day.

A Nuclear Medicine Technologist will carry out the procedure. On occasions a trainee may also be present.

If you cannot attend for your appointment please call 0116 258 5627 as soon as possible so we can offer your appointment to someone else.

Before your appointment you must tell us if:

- You are pregnant, think you may be pregnant, or have just missed a period.
- You are breastfeeding. This is because radioactive substances can come out in breast milk and you may be advised to stop breastfeeding for a short time.
- You have any incontinence problems. This is because radioactive substances are present in your urine and you may require special instructions because of this.
- If you have problems with your memory, or learning difficulties.
- You need an interpreter (please tell us at least 3 days before your appointment).

How do I prepare for the scan?

You must not eat or drink anything for at least 6 hours before your appointment.

Please do not take opioid painkillers such as codeine or morphine for 24 hours before your test - you can take plain paracetamol or aspirin.

**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

What happens during the HIDA scan?

We will explain the procedure to you first and you can ask any questions.

You will be asked to lie on a couch and will be given a small radioactive injection into a vein in your arm (this is no more painful than having a blood test). You will not feel any ill effects from the injection and you won't need to undress. We will take pictures of your tummy area (abdomen) as soon as you have had the injection.

You may be given a drink (like a thick milkshake) part way through the scan, which is to make your gall bladder empty. This will depend on what your doctor wants us to look for.

How long will it take?

The test usually takes about 2 hours, but it could take most of the day. You may need to come back the next day for more pictures. This depends on the information that your doctor has asked for. When possible we will inform you of this before your appointment.

What happens after the scan?

- You will be radioactive after you have your injection until the next morning. To minimise any risk to you and your family and friends, we ask you to:
- Drink plenty of extra fluids.
- Flush the toilet well after use.
- Wash your hands thoroughly each time you use the toilet.
- Avoid close contact (for more than 30 minutes) with anyone who is or may be pregnant, small children and babies.
- Usually there is no problem in returning to work, however please ask staff for advice if you work with radiation or in the photographic industry.

How will I get the results of the scan?

Your scan will be looked at by a Radiologist and the results passed on to your Consultant. They will be discussed with you at your next outpatient appointment.

Are there any risks?

Ionising radiation can cause cell damage that may, after many years or decades, turn cancerous. We are all at risk of developing cancer during our lifetime. The normal risk is that this will happen to about 50% of people at some point in their life.

The dose of radiation you will receive from this test is very small. It is the same dose you would receive from the environment in approximately 7 months. Having this test will therefore add only a very small chance of this happening to you. In fact, the risks from missing a serious disorder by not having this test may be considerably greater.

Useful information

You may wish to bring a relative or friend with you. Due to the nature of the examination, friends and relatives will not be allowed into the room during the procedure, unless we need their assistance.

Please do not bring children with you to your appointment. Radiation is more hazardous for children and pregnant women than for adults, so please do not bring them into the Nuclear Medicine Department unless they are coming for a scan.

If you need hospital transport, please see our website <https://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk>, or call TASL on 0345 241 3012 at least 3 days before your appointment.

Directions to Nuclear Medicine

Glenfield Hospital - The department is best reached via the East Entrance.

Leicester Royal Infirmary - Level 0, Sandringham Building (behind the multi-storey car park).

Further information

For specific information regarding your test, please contact (answering machine checked during office hours):

Leicester Royal Infirmary: 0116 258 5627

Glenfield Hospital: 0116 258 3850

Leicester Radiopharmacy Service: 0116 258 5579

If you have a question about your medical condition, please contact your GP or the doctor who made your referral.

Useful websites: www.bnms.org.uk www.radiologyinfo.org www.patient.co.uk

www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/aboutus/departments-services/imaging-services/nuclear-medicine

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغةٍ أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk