

Radiology

Nuclear Medicine, Freeman Hospital Liver Remnant Function Scan

Introduction

Your doctor has requested that you have a Liver Remnant Function Scan. Please read this leaflet carefully. This leaflet explains the procedure and aims to answer some of the questions you may have.

What is a Liver Remnant Function Scan?

A Liver Remnant Function Scan is a way of taking pictures of your liver to estimate liver function using a SPECTCT scanner. A small amount of radioactivity is used to produce these pictures.

Do I need to prepare for the scan? YES

- At 4 hours **BEFORE** your scan, you **MUST** eat a light breakfast or light lunch please. (For example: If your appointment time is 10:00am, eat at 06:00am)
- Do not eat again until your scan is complete.
- We do ask that you attend 10-15 minutes before your appointment time.
- Please avoid wearing any jewellery e.g. earrings, necklaces, facial piercings. If possible, try to wear loose clothing with no metal zips, clips or buttons.
- Please can you attend on your own for your appointment if possible.

What if I am diabetic?

This scan itself has no effect on diabetes, take insulin and medications as normal.

What if I am pregnant or breast feeding?

If you are, or may be pregnant, it is important that you inform a member of staff prior to your scan. To avoid accidental irradiation, all patients between the ages of 11 and 55 years are asked about their pregnancy status.

If you are pregnant or breast feeding, please contact the Nuclear Medicine Department prior to your appointment.

What does the scan involve?

Prior to the scan you will be asked to remove any clothing containing metal and to empty your pockets. We will take you into a scanning room and lie you on a bed between two detectors. A Clinical Technologist or Radiographer will administer an injection into a vein in your arm or hand. The injection is a radioactive tracer that is taken up by your liver. The scan will be performed as soon as the injection is given and will take approximately 1 hour.

The scan involves taking pictures while you lie on a bed. The camera is placed close to the part of the body being studied. Pictures will also be taken where the camera rotates slowly around your body (SPECT), with a CT scan to help further assess your condition. It is important you keep very still during your scan and listen to instructions given by the Radiographer or Clinical Technologist.

What happens after the scan?

When the scan is complete, you can go home or work.

The scan is reported by a Radiologist, and results are made available for your doctor.

A small amount of radioactivity will remain in your system for the next few days. To minimise any risk to you and your family/friends you can:

- Eat and drink as normal. If you can, drink extra fluids.
- Flush the toilet well after use.
- Wash your hands thoroughly each time you use the toilet.
- Avoid prolonged close contact with pregnant women or children for 24 hours.

What are the risks?

We live with background radiation constantly. The additional amount of radiation from a SPECT CT scan is small. The radioactive injection used for the SPECT scan exposes you to gamma rays, which are a form of radiation. For your injection we use as little as possible and is not associated with any side effects. The CT scan uses X-Rays to create images. The risks are very low and the benefits of having the results from the procedure greatly outweigh the risk.

For further information or to change your appointment, please contact Nuclear Medicine:

Nuclear Medicine,
Level 2, NCCC building,
Freeman Hospital
Freeman Road
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE7 7DN

Tel: (0191) 2138200 or 38201
nuth.nuclearmedicinefreeman@nhs.net
Monday to Friday 09:00am to 4:30pm

PALS (Patient Advice and Liaison Service) for help, advice, and information about NHS services. You can contact them on freephone 0800 032 02 02, e-mail northoftynepals@nhct.nhs.uk or text to 07815500015.

Useful websites

www.newcastle-hospitals.org.uk

www.bnms.org.uk

www.radiologyinfo.org

www.patient.co.uk

If you would like further information about health conditions and treatment options, you may wish to have a look at the NHS website at www.nhs.uk

If you would like to find accessibility information for our hospitals, please visit

www.accessable.co.uk