

Information for patients and carers

Renogram



What is a Renogram?

A renogram is a scan to show the function and drainage of your kidneys. The procedure involves an injection followed by a scan using a gamma camera similar to the one shown in the image below:



Please inform us before you attend:

- If you are or think you may be pregnant or breast/chest feeding
- If you weigh over 25 stone (158 Kilograms)
- If you are on restricted fluids
- If you are unable to lie on your back for 30 minutes
- If you have problems standing or need a hoist to transfer

Preparation for the scan

- Please drink at least 500ml of fluid before you attend for the scan so that you are hydrated. You do not need a full bladder and can go to the toilet when required
- If you are on restricted fluids please call us to discuss how to proceed

Can you bring a relative or friend with you?

A relative or friend can accompany you to the hospital but usually they will not be allowed into the room when you have your examination. Please note that we have limited seating and do not have childcare facilities, therefore small children should not attend your appointment.

Your scan

Depending on your condition, we can perform the scan in one of the following three ways. The radiographer will discuss with you which one is most suited to your condition.

Renogram with a diuretic

1. A small plastic tube (cannula) will be positioned into a vein in your arm and you will be given an injection called a diuretic. A diuretic is a drug that will make you produce more urine for a short time. You will then be asked to sit and wait for approximately 20 minutes. During this time you may use the toilet when required.
2. You will be asked to empty your bladder before the images are taken. We will ask you to empty your pockets and remove any metal objects such as belts, braces and jewellery.
3. You will then be asked to lie on your back on the scanning table and a small amount of radioactive tracer will be injected through a plastic tube in your arm. The scan will start as soon as the injection has been given and is performed using a special camera. This is positioned under the table. You will be required to remain still for 30 minutes for the scan but there will be someone nearby.

Renogram with no diuretic Injection

Your test will be as described above starting at **point 2**.

Renogram with a cystogram

Your test will be as described above starting at **point 2**, with the addition of the step below:

1. Once this scan has finished, you will be asked to vacate the scanning table whilst the cameras are repositioned. You will then be asked to empty your bladder using either a bedpan or male urinary bottle while positioned in front of the camera. There are screens in position around you to maintain privacy. This demonstrates what happens to your kidneys with the pressure of emptying your bladder.

Are there any side effects?

The diuretic may cause some discomfort, but this will ease as the drug wears off through the day. You may take painkillers if you wish. We do not expect any side effects from the radioactive injection.

Are there any risks?

All medical procedures and tests carry both risks and benefits, your doctor has requested this scan as they feel the information that we will gain is a greater benefit than the risk from being exposed to radiation. Our injections contain a small amount of radioactivity that emits gamma rays (these are similar to x-rays). We use the smallest dose possible, in line with national regulations to provide as much information as we can about your condition.

The results of your scan will give your doctor useful information about your condition and will help to plan your treatment.

After the scan

After your scan you must continue to follow the advice about drinking that you were given after the injection. You are free to go home or go back to work. Please avoid spending a long time in close contact with young children or pregnant women for the rest of the day. You should aim to spend no more than 15 minutes each hour cuddling or sitting

next to them. It is also best if you do not share a bed with a child or a pregnant woman on the evening of your scan.

Travel abroad

Please inform the radiographer on arrival if you intend to travel abroad within 7 days of your scan. Radiation monitoring at security in airports or ports may detect some of the radiation you have received during your scan. We will give you a letter that will state what test you have had, and this can be used when travelling.

Your results

The images will be reviewed after your visit. You will be advised when and how you will receive your results at this time. You will not receive any results on the day of the scan.

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please telephone Nuclear Medicine on **01772 522381**.

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.patient.co.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ionising-radiation-from-medical-imaging-examinations-safety-advice/exposure-to-ionising-radiation-from-medical-imaging-safety-advice>

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www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals is a smoke-free site. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on any of our premises, either inside or outside the buildings. Our staff will ask you about your smoking status when you come to hospital and will offer you support and advice about stopping smoking this will include Nicotine Replacement Therapy to help manage your symptoms of withdrawal and the opportunity to speak to a nurse or advisor from the specialist Tobacco and Alcohol Care Team.

If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone 08081962638

Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.

This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.

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