



Information for  
patients and  
carers

**HIDA Scan**  
**(Hepatobiliary IminoDiacetic Acid)**

## What is a HIDA scan?

A HIDA scan is a nuclear medicine study used to evaluate your gallbladder function. It is also used to look at the bile excreting function of your liver and to track the flow of bile from your liver into your small intestine.

The procedure involves an injection followed by a scan using a gamma camera similar to the one shown in the picture below.



### **Please inform us before you attend:**

- If you are, or think, you may be pregnant
- If you are breastfeeding
- If you weigh over 25 stones (158 Kilograms)
- You are unable to lay on your back for 45 minutes
- If you have problems with mobility and/or need a hoist to transfer
- If you are diabetic and may not be able to follow the preparation instructions

## Preparation for the scan

The times and details of your appointment are included in your appointment letter. It is important that you do not have anything to eat or drink for 6 hours prior to your appointment time. If you take medications in tablet form, you may continue to do so, taking only small sips of water.

## Can you bring a relative or friend with you?

A relative or friend may 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 child care facilities, therefore small children should not attend your appointment.

## Your scan

You will be asked to go to the toilet to empty your bladder just before the scan starts. You will need to empty your pockets and remove any metal objects such as braces, jewellery and belts. For the scan you will lie on your back on the scanning table. Special cameras which are about the size of a large suitcase will come close to you during the scan but you will not be enclosed in a tunnel.

A radiographer will inject a small amount of radioactive tracer (in a liquid form) into a vein in your hand or arm. There are usually no side effects from the injection. We will begin acquiring images immediately after the injection.

The first phase of the scan takes 45 minutes and you will have to lie still during this time.

If you have had your gall bladder removed the scan is complete after the first phase finishes.

If you have **not** had your gall bladder removed we will continue to the second phase of the scan. We will ask you to drink a fluid that contains a high fat level. This allows us to check if your gall bladder empties correctly. We will take more images for approximately 30 minutes. Depending on how well your gall bladder empties we may need to take additional images up to 4 hours later. We will tell you after the second phase image if we require you to stay.

You will not be left on your own as there will be someone close by at all times.

We advise that you drink extra fluids for the rest of the day to help reduce the radiation in your body. We will tell you how much to drink when you come and if you are on restricted fluids we will give you further advice.

## **Are there any side effects?**

We do not expect any side effects from the 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 at 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 contact Nuclear Medicine on 01772 522381.

## Sources of further information

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk)

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

[www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk)

[www.accessable.co.uk](http://www.accessable.co.uk)

Further information about radiation can be found on the government webpage: Medical Radiation: uses, measurements and dose safety advice: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/medical-radiation-uses-dose-measurements-and-safety-advice](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/medical-radiation-uses-dose-measurements-and-safety-advice)

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets)

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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 including Nicotine Replacement Therapy to help manage your symptoms of withdrawal.

If you want to stop smoking you can also contact the Quit Squad Freephone 0800 328 6297.

Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

**Gujarati:**

આ માહિતીને સમજવામાં સહાયતા જોઈતી હોય તો કૃપા કરીને પૂછો. આ માહિતી મોટા છપાણામાં અને અન્ય ભાષામાં ઉપલબ્ધ કરી શકાય છે.

**Romanian:**

Vă rugăm să întrebați dacă aveți nevoie de ajutor pentru înțelegerea acestor informații. Aceste informații pot fi puse la dispoziție în format mare și în alte limbi.”

**Polish:**

Poinformuj nas, jeśli potrzebna jest ci pomoc w zrozumieniu tych informacji. Informacje te można również udostępnić dużym drukiem oraz w innych językach

**Punjabi:**

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮਦਦ ਲੈਣੀ ਚਾਹੋਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਪੁੱਛੋ। ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੱਡੇ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਟ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

**Urdu:**

دوسری زبانوں اور ریڈی اگر آپ کوہی معلومات سمجھنے کے لیے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو  
یہی چھپا جس یہی ابی دست ہو یسکت ہے براے مہر یان پوے چھدی۔ معلومات

**Arabic:**

مطبوعه بأحرف كبيرة وبلغات إذا كنت تريد مساعدة في فهم هذه لمعلومات يُرجى أن تطلب  
أخرى يمكن تو فسير هذه المعلومات

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**Division:** Diagnostics and Clinical Support

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