



Information for
patients and
carers

Thyroid Scan

What is a Thyroid Scan?

This is a test to look at the function and size of your thyroid gland.

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



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)
- If you have problems with mobility and/or need a hoist to transfer

Preparation for the scan

There are no special preparations for a thyroid scan so you can eat, drink and take any medication as normal. The time and details of your appointment are been included in your appointment letter.

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

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. After your injection you will be asked to wait approximately 15 minutes before scan.

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 your neck during the scan but you will not be enclosed in a tunnel.

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.

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

The length of the scan can vary but will normally be between 15 - 20 minutes.

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

www.nhs.uk

www.patient.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

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

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

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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:

دو سرى زبانوں او ر بڑى اكر آپ كو هى معلومات سمجھنے كے يعل مدد يك ضرورت ہے تو
يى چھپيا يى يى ابى دست بو يى سكت ہے برا ئے مبر يى بان پو ے يى چھه يى معلومات

Arabic:

مطوبه با حرف كيبير ة و بلغات اذا كنت تر يد مسا عدة في فهم هذه لمعلومات ير جى ان. تطلب
اخرى يملكن تو فسير هذه المعلومات

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Division: Diagnostics and Clinical Support
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