



Information for  
patients and  
carers

**White Cell Scan**

## What is a White Cell Scan?

This scan is used to detect areas of infection or inflammation within the body.

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 white cell scan so you can eat, drink and take any medication as normal.

## 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 sample of blood (less than 100ml) will be taken from you and the white cells extracted from it. Your white cells are then mixed with a radioactive material. This mixing process takes approximately 3 hours.

During this time you may leave the department and eat and drink. You will be given a time to return to the department.

The radioactive white cells will then be re-injected into you and allowed to circulate around your body.

Before your scan you will need to go to the toilet to empty your bladder. This will help us to get the best images. You will also need to empty your pockets and remove any metal objects such as braces, jewellery and belts.

Depending on which part of the body we are looking at, you may have an image taken straight away. More images will be taken during the afternoon; we will inform you when you have your injection what time these images will be. The last set of images could be taken at up to 4 hours following the injection.

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. 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. Each set of images takes between 10 and 30 minutes depending on the area of interest.

## **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)

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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)

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:**

دو سر ی زبانوں او ری بیڑی اگر آپ کو ہی معلومات سمجھنے کے لیے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو یی چھپا یں یی ابی دست بو ی سکت ہے برا ئے مہر یان یو یی چھہی۔ معلومات

**Arabic:**

مطبوعه بأ ح ر ف ك ب ي ر ة و بلغات إذا كنت تريد مساعدة في فهم هذه لمعلومات ير جى أن تطلب أخرى يمكن تو فير هذه المعلومات

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