NHS
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Information for patients and carers

Lung Perfusion Scan

What is a Lung Perfusion Scan?

A lung scan is a nuclear medicine test that looks at the blood flow to your lungs. This scan can help to identify various lung conditions, but it is most commonly used to detect a pulmonary embolism (PE). This is a blockage of one of the arteries in the lung caused by a blood clot.



Please inform us before you attend:

- If you are or think you may be pregnant
- If you are breastfeeding/ chest feeding
- If you weigh over 25 stone (158 Kilograms)
- If you have problems standing or need a hoist to transfer
- If you have any ethical or religious objections to receiving blood products

If you require an interpreter, please inform us as soon as you receive your appointment letter and we will arrange an official interpreter for you.

Preparation for the Scan

There are no special preparations for a lung 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 can accompany you to the hospital, but they will not usually be allowed into the room when you have your examination. Please note that we have limited seating and do not have childcare facilities. Please do not bring small children with you to 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, in our injection room.
You will then be taken straight into the scan room or asked to wait briefly in our waiting room, before entering the scan room.
You will not have to get fully undressed, but you will be asked to remove anything containing metal from around your chest area (necklaces, underwired bras etc.) before you lie on the scanning bed.
During your scan, you will lie on your back on the scanning bed. Special cameras which are about the size of a large suitcase will come close to you, but you will not be enclosed in a tunnel.
You will not be left on your own as there will be a staff member close by at all times. The scan takes up to 30 minutes, and you will have to lie still during this time.

Side effects

There should not be any side effects from the injection.

Are there any risks?

All medical procedures 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 of being exposed to radiation.

The injection contains a small amount of a radioactive tracer 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

You will need to attend the hospital department responsible for your care, straight away, to receive the results of your scan (the radiographer will advise which department you need to go to). You should drink plenty of fluids for the rest of the day, to help speed up the elimination of radiation from your body. If you have any concerns or you are on a fluid restriction, please tell the radiographer and we will advise what to do. 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 person 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

You will be advised when and how you will receive your results at the end 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.accessable.co.uk
www.patient.co.uk
www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware
https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.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

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is not responsible for the content of external internet sites.

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

Our patient information group review our leaflets regularly, if you feel you would like to feedback on this information or to join our reading group please contact us on email address: patientexperienceandinvolvem@LTHTR.nhs.uk

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