NHS
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Information for patients and carers

Lacrimal Scan

What is a Lacrimal Scan?

A lacrimal scan is a diagnostic procedure to determine how well your nasolacrimal ducts (also known as tear ducts) are functioning and their anatomical appearance. The procedure involves a few eye drops followed by a scan using a gamma camera like the one shown in the picture.



Preparation for the Scan

Please do not wear contact lenses on the day of your appointment. You can eat, drink and take any medication as normal.

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 19.5 stone (125 Kilograms)
- If you have problems standing or need a hoist to transfer
- If you have any ethical or moral 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.

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

The procedure involves a small amount of radioactive tracer being administered in the form of eye drops. This will be followed immediately by a series of scans.

The scans are taken by a special camera that is about the size of a large suitcase. You will sit in a chair and rest your head on a small frame while we acquire the images. The camera will be positioned directly in front of your head. It is important that you sit very still during the scan.

You will not have to get undressed, but you will be asked to remove eyeglasses if you wear them.

You will not be left on your own as there will be someone close by at all times. The scan is completed in several stages but usually takes 60 minutes in total.

Side effects

There should not be any side effects from the drops, and your vision will not be affected.

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 tracers 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 the appointment you can resume all usual activities. Eat as normal and keep well hydrated.

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 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

Department: Radiology/Nuclear Medicine
Division: Diagnostics and Clinical Support
Production date: September 2026
Review date: September 2029
JR 1527 v1