

Having a scan of your liver or gall bladder

Nuclear Medicine

Information for Patients

Last reviewed: June 2024

Next review: June 2027

Leaflet number: 477 Version: 4

What is a HIDA scan?

This is a safe and simple procedure, using a small amount of radioactivity to get images of your liver and gall bladder (if you have one). The test is done on a single day.

A Nuclear Medicine Technologist will do the procedure. Sometimes a trainee may also be in the room

Before your appointment you must tell us if:

- You are pregnant, think you may be pregnant, or have just missed a period.
- You are breastfeeding. This is because radioactive substances can come out in breast milk. You may be told to stop breastfeeding for a short time.
- You have any incontinence problems. This is because radioactive substances will be in your urine and you may need special instructions because of this.
- If you have problems with your memory, or learning difficulties.
- You need an interpreter (please tell us at least 3 days before your appointment).

If you are arriving by ambulance you must tell the department as soon as possible.

If you cannot come for your appointment please call 0116 258 5627 as soon as possible so we can offer your appointment to someone else.

How do I prepare for the scan?

- You must not eat or drink anything for at least 6 hours before your appointment.
- Please do not take opioid painkillers such as codeine or morphine for 24 hours before your test - you can take plain paracetamol or aspirin.

**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

- We may need you to stop taking some of your usual medication. We will contact you before your appointment if this is the case.

What happens during the HIDA scan?

- We will explain the procedure to you first and you can ask any questions.
- We will ask you to lie on a couch and we will give you a small radioactive injection into a vein in your arm (this is no more painful than having a blood test). You will not feel any side effects from the injection and you will not need to undress. We will take pictures of your tummy area (abdomen) as soon as you have had the injection.
- You may be given a drink (like a thick milkshake) part way through the scan. This will make your gall bladder empty. This will depend on what your doctor wants us to look for.

How long will it take?

The test usually takes about 2 hours, but it could take most of the day. You may need to come back the next day for more pictures. This depends on the information that your doctor has asked for. When possible we will tell you of this before your appointment.

What happens after the scan?

You will be radioactive after you have your injection until the next morning. To reduce any risk to you and your family and friends, we ask you to:

- Drink plenty of extra fluids.
- Flush the toilet well after use. Men should sit down when going for a pee
- Wash your hands thoroughly each time you use the toilet.
- Avoid close contact (for more than 30 minutes) with anyone who is or may be pregnant, small children and babies.
- Usually there is no problem in returning to work. Please ask staff for advice if you work with radiation or in the photographic industry.

How will I get the results of the scan?

Your scan will be looked at by a Radiologist and the results passed on to your Consultant. They will be discussed with you at your next outpatient appointment.

Are there any risks?

Ionising radiation can cause cell damage that may, after many years or decades, turn cancerous. We are all at risk of developing cancer during our lifetime. About 50% of people will get cancer at some point in their life.

The dose of radiation you will get from this test is very small. It is the same amount you would get from the environment in about 7 months. Having this test will only increase your risk of getting

cancer by a very small amount. The risks from missing a serious disorder by not having this test may be much bigger.

Useful information

Please do not bring children or pregnant women with you to your appointment. Radiation is more dangerous for children and pregnant women. You should not bring them into the Nuclear Medicine Department unless they are coming for a scan.

Directions to Nuclear Medicine

Glenfield Hospital - The department is best reached via the East Entrance.

Leicester Royal Infirmary - Level 0, Sandringham Building (behind the multi-storey car park).

More information

For information about your test, please contact (answering machine checked during office hours):

Leicester Royal Infirmary: 0116 258 5627

Glenfield Hospital: 0116 258 3850

Leicester Radiopharmacy Service: 0116 258 5579

If you have a question about your medical condition, please contact your GP or the doctor who sent you for this scan.

Useful websites:

www.bnms.org.uk/page/PatientsCarers

www.radiologyinfo.org

www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/aboutus/departments-services/imaging-services/nuclear-medicine

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk