

Having a scan of your parathyroid

Nuclear Medicine

Information for Patients

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What is a parathyroid scan?

This is a safe and simple procedure that uses a small amount of radioactivity to get images of your parathyroid glands. These sit behind your thyroid gland in your neck. This scan is done on a single day with 2 appointment times.

If you cannot attend your appointment, please call 0116 258 5627 to rearrange at least 3 days before so that we can try to offer your appointment to someone else.

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

Glenfield hospital – Please use the East Entrance.

You may get a reminder by text message if we have your mobile phone number on our system. Please make sure you respond to this.

You must tell us if you:

- are pregnant, think you may be pregnant, or have just missed a period.
- are breastfeeding. This is because radioactive substances can come out in breast milk and you may be advised to stop breastfeeding for a short time.
- have any incontinence problems. This is because radioactive substances will be present in your pee (urine) and you may need special instructions because of this.
- have problems with your memory or learning difficulties.
- need an interpreter. Please tell us at least 3 days before you appointment.
- are arriving by **ambulance** please contact Department as soon as possible.

**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

How do I prepare for the scan?

Please make sure you drink plenty of water before coming. You can eat and take any medication as normal.

What happens during the scan?

There are 2 appointments that are both on the same day. The whole procedure will take about 4½ hours. This includes a period of about 2 hours when you are free to leave the department.

1st appointment - this will take about 1½ hours. You will be given a small injection and then we will scan your neck a few minutes afterwards. You will be asked to lie still on a bed, and will need to be fairly flat, so that we can get a good view of your neck. You will not need to undress. In order to get good quality pictures the **gamma camera** will be quite close to you. You will not be left alone in the room.

You are then free to leave the department until your second appointment time. We will give you a time that you need to be back for.

2nd appointment - This will take about 45 minutes, but sometimes it can take longer. We will take the same pictures as before, followed by a short CT scan. This is all done on the same camera. There will be no more injections.

What happens after the scan?

You will be mildly radioactive after you have had your injection for 24 hours. To minimise any risk to you and your 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.
- Do not spend too much time (more than 30 minutes) with anyone who is or maybe pregnant, small children and babies.
- You can usually go back to work without any problems, but please ask staff for advice if you work with radiation or in the photographic industry.

Are there any risks?

It is very unlikely that you will have any side effects from the radioactive injection. You get radiation during this scan, which carries a small risk.

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. The normal risk is that this will happen to about 50% of people at some point in their life.

The dose of radiation you will get from this test is very small. It is the same dose you would receive from the environment in about 3.2 years. Having this test will therefore add only a very small chance of this happening to you. In fact, the risks from missing a serious disorder by not having this test may be far higher.

How will I get my results?

Your scan will be looked at by a **radiologist** and the results passed on to your **consultant**. This will be discussed with you at your next **outpatient appointment**.

Useful information

You may wish to bring a relative or friend with you. Due to the nature of the examination, friends and relatives will not be allowed into the room during the procedure, unless we need their assistance.

Please do not bring children with you to your appointment. Radiation is more dangerous for children and pregnant women than for adults. So, please **do not to bring them** into the Nuclear Medicine Department unless they are coming for a scan.

If you need hospital transport, please see our website <https://www.leicesterhospitals.nhs.uk>, or call TASL on 0345 241 3012 at least 3 days before your appointment.

Further information

For specific 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 made your referral.

Useful websites

www.bnms.org.uk

www.radiologyinfo.org

www.patient.co.uk

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