

Your Liver and Spleen Scan explained (NLIVS)

Please read this carefully as it contains information
about preparing for the scan

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Aim of the patient information

This information is aimed at patients having a Scan of their Liver and Spleen and aims to tell you what the scan is and to tell you what will happen.

General Information

A doctor has asked that we take a picture of your liver and/or spleen.

If the appointment clashes with another outpatient appointment, or you are unable to attend on this day, please contact this department as soon as possible. We can then reschedule the test and assign the appointment to another patient.

As the test involves small amounts of radiation, we ask that you are **not** accompanied by children under 18 or anyone who may be pregnant. You may bring one adult with you to the department.

If you have mobility issues, are incontinent or claustrophobic please contact the department on the telephone number on page 3.

Benefit and risks of the test

Everyone receives some radiation every day from the radioactivity in the air, food we eat and even from space. The amount of radiation in a nuclear medicine test is similar to your natural exposure over one year so the risks associated with it are low.

The main benefit of the test is making the correct diagnosis, so you can get the treatment that is right for you. This benefit is far greater than the small risk from radiation.

What does the test involve?

The test involves giving an injection of a radioactive tracer into one of your veins in either your hands or arms. There should be no ill effects from the injection. You will then be asked to sit in a specific waiting room for 20 minutes to allow time for the injection to circulate. It is important that you drink plenty of fluids after the injection. Water is available in the department.

Once the injection has circulated, you will be asked to lie flat on a bed whilst the camera (see photos on page 3) takes the pictures. Occasionally you may be asked to stand or sit depending on the pictures that we need. The pictures normally take about 1 to 2 hours. We may use a CT attached to the camera to give us more information.

If there is any change to that timing, you will be informed on the day of the test. After the pictures have been taken, you are free to leave.

Preparation

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding you must inform the department as quickly as possible as special arrangements may have to be made.

No preparation for the test is necessary. **Please eat and drink as normal.** Please bring with you a list of any medication that you are taking (your repeat prescription sheet if possible).

After the test

For the rest of the day, you must take extra care to wash your hands thoroughly after toilet use, sit down when you use the toilet and to flush the toilet twice. You must also continue to drink extra fluids and empty your bladder frequently. This will improve the clearance of the radiation from your body.

When the test is completed, the images will be reviewed and a report will be available to the doctor who has requested the test.

The camera

The special camera used to take the pictures has an open design and the majority of patients complete the test without any discomfort.



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