


Information for patients and carers

HIDA Scan (Hepatobiliary IminoDiacetic Acid)

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of three overlapping, wavy bands of blue. The top band is a light blue, the middle is a medium blue, and the bottom is a dark blue.

What is a HIDA scan?

This is a test used to assess the bile excreting function of your liver, bile ducts and gallbladder. The scan may be performed in patients who do not have a gallbladder.

The procedure involves an injection followed by a scan using a gamma camera similar to the one shown in the picture below.



Please inform us before you attend:

- If you are or think you may be pregnant
- If you are breastfeeding
- If you weigh over 25 stones (158 Kilograms)
- You are unable to lie on your back
- If you have problems with mobility and/or need a hoist to transfer
- If you are diabetic and may not be able to follow the preparation instructions

Preparation for the scan

It is important that you do not have anything to eat or drink for 6 hours prior to your appointment time. If you take medications in tablet form, you may continue to do so, with small sips of water.

Can you bring a relative or friend with you?

A relative or friend may accompany you to the hospital, but they will not usually be allowed into the room when you have your examination.

Please note, we have limited seating and do not have childcare facilities, therefore, small children should not attend your appointment.

Your scan

You will be asked to go to the toilet to empty your bladder just before the scan starts. You will not have to get undressed, but you will be asked to remove any metal objects such as braces, jewellery and belts.

During the scan, you will lie on your back on the scanning table. 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.

A radiographer will inject a small amount of radioactive tracer (in a liquid form) into a vein in your hand or arm. There are usually no side effects from the injection. We will begin acquiring images immediately after the injection.

The scan takes about 90 minutes and you will have to lie still during this time. As part of the test, we will ask you to swallow a special drink with a high fat content. This allows us to see if your liver and/or gall bladder empty correctly. Depending on how it empties, you may need some additional imaging an hour or so later-we will advise you on the day if you need this.

You will not be left on your own as there will be a member of staff close by at all times. We advise that you drink extra fluids for the rest

of the day to help reduce the radiation in your body. If you are on restricted fluids, please tell us and we will give further advice.

Are there any side effects?

We do not expect any side effects from the injection.

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 injections 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 your scan you must continue to follow the advice about drinking extra fluids. You are free to go home or back to work.

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 woman 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 in security at 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, 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.patient.co.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

Follow us on social media @lancshospitals

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-radiationuses-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.

Department: Radiology/Nuclear Medicine

Division: Diagnostics and Clinical Support

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