



Information for
patients and carers

Salivary Scan

What is a Salivary Scan?

This is a test to look at the function of your salivary glands. It can help to identify the cause of a dry mouth (xerostomia) or swollen salivary glands.

The procedure involves an injection in your arm followed by a scan using a gamma camera similar to the one shown in the image 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 stone
- If you are unable to lie on your back for 30 minutes
- If you have problems standing or need a hoist to transfer

Preparation for the Scan

There are no special preparations for a salivary scan so you can eat, drink and take any medication as normal.

Can you bring a relative or friend with you?

A relative or friend may accompany you to the hospital but usually they will not be allowed into the room when you have your examination. Please note that we have limited seating and do not have child care facilities, therefore small children should not attend your appointment.

Your scan

The procedure involves an injection followed by a scan. A radiographer will inject a small amount of radioactive tracer (in a liquid form) into a vein in your hand or arm.

You will not have to get undressed, but you will be asked to remove any jewellery before you lie on the bed.

During your 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 during the scan but you will not be enclosed in a tunnel.

Half way through your scan we will give you a small drink of lemon juice through a straw. This will stimulate your salivary glands to empty; you must remain still during this time as we will be acquiring images continuously.

You will not be left on your own as there will be someone close by at all times. The scan usually takes 20 minutes and you will have to lie perfectly still on your back during this time.

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 that you were given after the injection. You are free to go home or go 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 don't 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 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 01772 522381.

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.patient.co.uk

www.accessable.co.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

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

Gujarati:

આ માહિતીને સમજવામાં સહાયતા જોઈતી હોય તો કૃપા કરીને પૂછો. આ માહિતી મોટા છપાણ માં અને અન્ય ભાષામાં ઉપલબ્ધ કરી શકાય છે.

Romanian:

Vă rugăm să întrebați dacă aveți nevoie de ajutor pentru înțelegerea acestor informații. Aceste informații pot fi puse la dispoziție în format mare și în alte limbi.”

Polish:

Poinformuj nas, jeśli potrzebna jest ci pomoc w zrozumieniu tych informacji. Informacje te można również udostępnić dużym drukiem oraz w innych językach

Punjabi:

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮਦਦ ਲੈਣੀ ਚਾਹੋਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਪੁੱਛੋ। ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੱਡੇ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਟ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

Urdu:

دوسری زبانوں اور بڑی اگر آپ کو ہی معلومات سمجھنے کے لیے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو
یہی چھپا میں یہ ابی دست ہو سکتا ہے براے مہر یان ہو۔ عی چھ ہی۔ معلومات

Arabic:

مطبوعه با حرف كبيره و بلغات اذا كنت تريد مساعده في فهم هذه المعلومات يرجى ان تطلب
اخرى يمكن تو فير هذه المعلومات

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Division: Diagnostics and Clinical Support
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