

Information for patients and carers

Lung Perfusion Scan

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 Lung Perfusion Scan?

A lung scan is a nuclear medicine test that looks at the blood flow to your lungs. This scan can help to identify various lung conditions, but it is most commonly used to detect a pulmonary embolism (PE). This is a blockage of one of the arteries in the lung caused by a blood clot.



Please inform us before you attend:

- If you are or think you may be pregnant
- If you are chest/breastfeeding
- If you weigh over 25 stone (158 Kilograms)
- If you have problems standing or need a hoist to transfer
- If you have any ethical or moral objections to receiving blood products

Preparation for the Scan

There are no special preparations for a lung 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 can accompany you to the hospital but they will usually not be allowed into the room when you have your examination. Please note that as we have limited seating and do not have child care facilities, please do not to bring small children with you to your appointment.

Your scan

A radiographer will inject a small amount of radioactive tracer (in a liquid form) into a vein in your hand or arm, in our injection room.

You will then be either taken straight into the scan room or asked to wait briefly in our waiting room.

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

During your scan you will lie on your back on the scanning bed. 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.

You will not be left on your own as there will be someone close by at all times. The scan usually takes 30 minutes and you will have to lie perfectly still during this time.

Side effects

There should not be any side effects from the injection.

Are there any risks?

All medical procedures 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 of being exposed to radiation.

The injection contains 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

You are free to go home or go back to work immediately after the scan. We strongly advise that you hydrate well after the scan. The radiographer will give you further advice at your appointment. 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 person 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

You will be advised when and how you will receive your results at the end 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

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

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

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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.

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