

# Information for patients and carers

## Octreotide 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 band is a medium blue, and the bottom band is a dark blue.

## What is an Octreotide Scan?

A scan used to detect certain types of tumours arising from the neuroendocrine systems of the body.

The procedure involves an injection followed by a scan, using a gamma camera, similar to the one 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 are unable to lie on your back
- If you weigh over 25 stones (158 Kilograms)
- If you have problems with mobility and/or need a hoist to transfer

## Preparation for the Scan

The scan is performed over 3 days.

### Preparation

**Day 1** - No preparation required.

**Day 2** - You will need to follow a special diet prior to the images being taken on Day 2. This information will be given to you when you attend on Day 1.

**Day 3** - No preparation required.

You may continue to take any medication as normal throughout the test.

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

## Your scan

### Day 1

The procedure involves an injection followed by a scan later in the day. A radiographer will inject a small amount of a radioactive tracer into a vein in your hand or arm.

We will acquire the first set of images 4 hours after your injection. This will take 30 minutes to complete.

While you are waiting, you may leave the department and eat and drink as normal. You should drink extra fluids for the rest of the day.

This will help provide clearer images and reduce the radiation in your body. If you are on restricted fluids, we will give you further advice.

You will be given an advice sheet with details of a special low residue diet. You will need to follow the diet advice after the scan on day 1 until after the scan on day 2.

## **Day 2**

On day 2, we will acquire a second set of images.

There are no further injections, however the scan is longer-approximately 90 minutes.

Once the scan is complete on day 2, you may discontinue the low residue diet. You should continue to drink extra fluids for the rest of the day to help reduce the radiation in your body.

## **Day 3**

On day 3, we will acquire a third set of images.

The scan will be similar to day 1 and will take approximately 30 minutes.

You should continue to drink extra fluids for the rest of the day to reduce the radiation in your body.

## **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 each scan, you must follow the advice about drinking extra fluids. 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 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 2 months 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. 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](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk)

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

[www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk)

[www.accessable.co.uk](http://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-radiation-usesdose-measurements-and-safety-advice](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/medical-radiation-usesdose-measurements-and-safety-advice)

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

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets](http://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.**

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**Division:** Diagnostics and Clinical Support

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