NHS

Blackpool Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Parathyroid Scan

Nuclear Medicine Department
Patient Information Leaflet

What is a Parathyroid Scan?

A Parathyroid Scan is a scan which is used to visualize and locate the parathyroid glands in the neck.

You have been given two appointment times for the same day.

On the first visit you will be given a small injection of a radioactive tracer into a vein in your hand or arm. The tracer is taken up by the glands in your neck and will not make you feel any different.

After 15 minutes we will then start the first scan. The scan is carried out with you lying down on the scan couch. You will be positioned between the cameras and then they will rotate around you. They will be close to you but will not touch you. This will take approximately 25 minutes.

In the interval between the first and second scans you may leave the department if you wish.

The second appointment time is for another scan. This will be similar to the first scan only very slightly longer.

If you have any queries or are unable to keep this appointment please notify us by telephone as soon as possible. This will enable us to offer this appointment to another patient on our waiting list. We are available Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm on **01253 956789**.

Do I need to prepare for the scan?

You can eat and drink as normal on the day of your scan. There is no need to get undressed for the first scan but please remove any necklaces/ chains you may be wearing. For the second scan, underwired bras or bras with metal fasteners will need to be removed as well as necklaces, chains and earrings. You do not need to stop any of your medication prior to your scan. The injection will not react with any other medications.

Do I need to do anything special after the scan?

After your scan you can eat and drink normally and you will still be able to drive a car. The radioactivity will disappear naturally out of your body. You are free to go home but please avoid spending a long time in close contact with young children or pregnant women for the rest of the day. This avoids exposing them to unnecessary radiation.

How will I get the results of my scan?

The results of your scan will be sent to the hospital consultant who referred you for the scan. Some doctors will write to you with the results of the scan and some will send you an appointment to come back to the outpatient clinic.

How safe is the injection?

The injection contains a small amount of radioactive tracer which emits gamma rays (these are similar to X-rays). We use the smallest dose possible to provide as much information as we can about your condition. The radiation dose is very low and is similar to the natural background radiation we all receive from the environment over a period of 2.9 years. The results of your scan will give your doctor useful information about your condition and will help them plan your treatment. The benefits of having the scan far outweigh the tiny radiation dose you will receive.

Further guidance has been published by Public Health England.

Visit website – https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ionising-radiation-from-medical-imaging-examinations-safety-advice

Alternatively, use an internet search engine to search for "PHE medical imaging ionising radiation".

Is there anything I should tell the staff before the injection?

Please tell us if you are or may be pregnant.

If you are breast feeding please ring the department a few days before your appointment.

Additional Information

Directions to X-ray Central

X-ray Central is situated in Area 4 off the main hospital corridor and is signposted. Please follow the signs for X-Ray Central and report to reception on arrival.

Relatives and Carers

If you require support during your appointment you may bring one accompanying adult with you.

They will not usually be allowed into the examination room. If you have any additional needs, please let us know prior to your appointment.

Car Parking

Car parking is in the multi-storey car park at the main entrance of the hospital.

Car park charges apply at this hospital. Please bring change with you if you are planning to park on site.

You can pay via debit/credit card at the multi-storey carpark.

Other facilities available

At the main entrance to the hospital there is a cafe and shops selling light meals and snacks. There is also a large restaurant for staff and visitors to use.

Useful contact details

Nuclear Medicine Radiology:
Telephone: **01253 956789**
Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

Hospital Switchboard: **01253 300000**

Patient Relations Department

The Patient Relations Department offers impartial advice and deals with any concern or complaints the Trust receives. You can contact them via tel: **01253 955589** or by email: **bfwh.patientrelations@nhs.net**

You can also write to us at: **Patient Relations Department, Blackpool Victoria Hospital, Whinney Heys Road, Blackpool FY3 8NR**

Further information is available on our website: **www.bfwh.nhs.uk**

References

Details of the references used in writing this leaflet are available on request from: **Procedural Document and Leaflet Coordinator 01253 953397** or **bfwh.trustpolicyteam@nhs.net**

Options available
If you'd like a large print, audio, Braille or a translated version of this leaflet then please call: **01253 955520**

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People Centred | Positive | Compassion | Excellence

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