

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS, PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND CARERS

Undergoing a white cell scan - child

We have been requested by the hospital doctor looking after your child to arrange an appointment for a white cell scan. This study is performed to enable us to search for any infection or inflammation in the body.

The aim of this leaflet is to explain what you can expect when you bring your child for your nuclear medicine scan.

What is nuclear medicine?

Nuclear medicine is a method of imaging the body using a gamma camera and using radiopharmaceuticals (radioactive 'dyes').

To look at the function of the body, nuclear medicine uses gamma rays. These are very similar to x-rays except gamma rays are produced by a radiopharmaceutical injected into the bloodstream.

The radiation dose is kept as low as possible, similar to an x-ray dose, which means it may take quite a long time to create the images.

What should I do if we cannot attend for the appointment?

Please inform us as soon as possible on 01623 622515, extension 3284 or 3205, if your child is unable to attend. A special injection will be prepared for your child's scan, which cannot be used on any other patient.

How do I prepare my child for this scan?

There are no restrictions regarding eating or drinking. If your child is taking any medication, you may continue to give this as normal.

Please leave any valuables at home. You are responsible for all personal items you bring into hospital and the Trust cannot accept responsibility for their loss or damage.

What happens on the day of the appointment?

You will need to take your child to **Ward 25** in the Women's and Children's Centre at King's Mill Hospital at **8.30am**.

A nurse will put some anaesthetic cream onto your child's hand to numb it; this will take a little while to work.

A doctor will insert a cannula into your child's hand. A cannula is necessary as we need to take two samples of blood in order to do this study.

The doctor will take the samples using the cannula and we will collect them from the ward.

You will then need to take your child to the Nuclear Medicine department, which is situated in the main x-ray department, adjacent to the Emergency Department.

At 11am the white cells will be re-injected into your child's hand using the cannula. We can then remove the cannula and you will be free to leave the hospital.

You will need to return at 12 noon and 3pm for the images to be taken.

Your child will be required to lie on the imaging couch while the scan takes place.

The gamma camera will be close to your child, without touching, and they will never be totally enclosed.

The procedure may take up to 30 minutes.

Your child can eat and drink normally at all times.

Please note these times are approximate and may vary depending on the cell labelling time.

Can I stay with my child?

Yes, you may sit with your child during the scan. Your child may also bring their favourite toy with them.

Are there any risks to having an isotope scan?

The benefit from the isotope scan outweighs the small risk from radiation. The scan results will allow the hospital doctor to make the correct treatment decision for your child.

How do we get the results?

When the scan is finished no instant diagnosis can be made. The images produced are recorded digitally and reviewed and a report sent to your child's referring clinician.

These results will be discussed with you by the referring clinician. If your child has been referred from the hospital and you have not received a follow-up appointment within four weeks please contact your child's consultant's patient coordinator.

If you have any concerns or require more information, please call 01623 622515, extension 3284 or 3205.

Further sources of information

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions

Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Patient Experience Team (PET)

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service.

King's Mill Hospital: 01623 672222

Newark Hospital: 01636 685692

Email: sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net.

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you.

External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them.

If you require a full list of references for this leaflet, please email sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

To be completed by the Communications office
Leaflet code: PIL202308-06-UWCSC
Created: November 2012 / Revised: August 2023 /
Review Date: August 2025