Patient Information Leaflet

York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Renogram for Children

(Children age one month – 11 years old)

Information for patients, relatives and carers

ⓘ For more information, please contact: Radiology Department, York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE

Nuclear Medicine
Telephone: 01904 725936

About this leaflet

In this leaflet we tell you about the procedure known as a Nuclear Medicine renogram. We explain what is involved and what the possible risks are. The information in this leaflet is not meant to replace informed discussion between you and your child's doctor but can act as a starting point for such a discussion.

What is a renogram?

A renogram is a Nuclear Medicine imaging test that looks at your child's kidneys and bladder. It shows how well the kidneys clear waste products out of the bloodstream.

Are there any alternative procedures?

Nuclear Medicine scans use radioactive tracers to get information about tissues and organs that cannot be obtained using other scanning techniques. Your child's doctor has decided this test is the most appropriate for your child.

How do we prepare for the scan?

There is no special preparation, but it is a good idea to give your child plenty to drink an hour before the scan. Your child can eat normally. If you are pregnant, we suggest arranging for somebody else to bring your child for the scan. If there is nobody else available to do so, please telephone us on **01904 725936**.

What happens before the scan?

Please go to the Child Assessment Unit for the appointment time that is specified on your letter. On the Child Assessment Unit, your child will have anaesthetic cream applied to their arm/hands; this is usually the insides of both elbows and the back of both hands. Once the anaesthetic cream has taken effect, your child will have a small cannula (tube) inserted into a vein. You will then go down to the Nuclear Medicine department for the scan. You will be able to stay with your child at all times.

What happens during the scan?

We will ask your child to lie flat on their back on a bed. The technologist or radiographer will move the bed so that their kidneys are positioned over a gamma camera. Once in position, your child will be given a small injection of a radioactive tracer into the cannula that was placed on the Child Assessment Unit. The tracer travels from their bloodstream into their kidneys and the gamma camera starts taking pictures immediately. These pictures take 30 minutes, and your child will need to lie as still as possible throughout. 15 minutes into the scan, a diuretic (Furosemide) will be injected through the cannula.

The scanning procedure is not painful, and you can stay with your child at all times.

What happens after the scan?

When the scan is finished you will be free to leave the department.

We recommend that you encourage your child to drink plenty of fluids for the rest of the day, as this helps their kidneys flush any remaining radioactive tracer out of their body.

Your child’s urine will be slightly radioactive for the rest of the day. If your child wears nappies, we suggest you use gloves and an apron for nappy changing (we can provide you with some). It is also very important to wash your hands well after nappy changes or helping your child with toileting.

Results

You will not be given the results on the day of the scan. A report will be sent to the doctor who asked us to do the test. They will then get in touch with you regarding the results of the scan.

What if I have any other questions?

If you have any worries or questions about your scan, please feel free to telephone us on **01904 725936** and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Are there any risks or complications?

Nuclear Medicine procedures are very safe diagnostic imaging tests. Side effects from the injection are extremely rare and mild, for example a rash, itching and nausea or headache, and pass after 48 hours.

The amount of radioactivity involved is very small, and after 24 hours the radioactive tracer will have passed out of their body. There is radiation in the air and ground all around us called background radiation. Most radioisotope scans give on average the equivalent of a year’s background radiation.

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.

Tell us what you think of this leaflet

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact: Nuclear Medicine, Radiology Department, York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE or telephone 01904 725936.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS offers impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers. We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email yhs-tr.patientexperienceteam@nhs.net

An answer phone is available out of hours.

Teaching, training and research

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of health and healthcare in our community. Healthcare students may observe consultations for this purpose. You can opt out if you do not want students to observe. We may also ask you if you would like to be involved in our research.

Leaflets in alternative languages or formats

If you would like this information in a different format, including braille or easy read, or translated into a different language, please speak to a member of staff in the ward or department providing your care.

Patient Information Leaflets can be accessed via the Trust's Patient Information Leaflet website: www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk/your-visit/patient-information-leaflets/

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