Patient Information Leaflet



Parathyroid Scan

Information for patients, relatives and carers

⑤ For more information, please contact: Nuclear Medicine, Radiology Department, York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE Telephone: 01904 725936

About this leaflet

This leaflet tells you about your parathyroid scan. It explains what is involved and what the possible risks are. It is not meant to replace discussion between you and your doctor, but we hope you find the information helpful.

What is a parathyroid scan?

Your doctor would like information about your parathyroid glands. A parathyroid scan uses a radioactive tracer to enable us to image the physiology (function) of your parathyroid glands.

Are there any alternatives?

There may be alternative imaging studies available such as 4DCT. However, your doctor has decided this test is the most appropriate for you, and it gives different information to other types of scan. If you have any concerns, please discuss them with the doctor who referred you to us.

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What preparation is needed before the scan?

Please telephone us as soon as possible on 01904 726262 if you are taking any of the following medication:

- Carbimazole
- Methimazole
- Propylthiouracil
- Thyroxine

It is a good idea to wear comfortable clothing with no metal and avoid wearing a necklace. This will mean you won't need to change into a hospital gown for the scan.

What does the parathyroid scan involve?

On arrival in Nuclear Medicine for your first appointment, you will have a small injection of a radioactive tracer into a vein in your arm. This injection shows up your thyroid gland and it should not make you feel any different.

Between the first and second appointments you can leave the department.

Your second appointment will be 90 minutes later. At this appointment you will be taken into the scanning room and asked to lie on the scanning bed. You will be given a second injection of a different radioactive tracer that shows the parathyroid glands on the scanner. A special camera (SPECT-CT scanner) will take some pictures for approximately 40 minutes. Straight after this scan is finished, we will do a CT scan using the same scanner.

Sometimes we need to do a 10-minute delayed scan a few hours later. If we need to do this, we will tell you after your second scan is finished.

What happens after the parathyroid scan?

When the scan is finished you can go home or back to work. We recommend that you drink plenty of fluids for the rest of the day, and empty your bladder frequently. This helps to wash the radioactive injection out of your body.

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Results

A report will be sent to the doctor who requested the test, who will then get in touch with you. You will not be given the results on the day of your scan.

Are there any risks or complications?

Nuclear Medicine procedures are safe diagnostic imaging tests. It is common for you to have a metallic taste in your mouth after the second injection, but side effects from the injection are extremely rare. If there are any they are usually mild, for example a rash, itching or feeling faint and are most likely to happen within a couple of hours following the injection. Symptoms could last for up to 48 hours.

The amount of radioactivity involved is small, and after 24 hours the radioactive tracer will have passed out of your body.

Due to the radiation within you after the injection, we advise no close prolonged contact with pregnant women or children for 24 hours after the injection.

There is radiation in the air and ground all around us called background radiation. This scan is equivalent to 3-5 years' worth of background radiation.

This examination is not advisable for pregnant women, unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you believe you are or might be pregnant, or if you are breastfeeding, please let us know before your appointment.

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.

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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, 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/

Owner Joanne Hopkins, Radiographer Specialist and Nuclear Medicine RPS

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