

Having an Octreotide (Tektrotyd) scan

Nuclear Imaging Department Radiology

The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.

- Wash your hands with soap and warm water and dry thoroughly. Use hand gel, if provided, in care facilities.
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting stay at home and do not visit relatives that are vulnerable in hospital or in residential care. You will spread the illness.
- Keep the environment clean and safe. Let's work together to keep it that way. Prevention is better than cure.

This leaflet tells you about having an Octreotide scan. It explains what is involved and what the possible risks are. It is not meant to replace informed discussion between you and your doctor.

What is Nuclear Imaging?

Nuclear Imaging is a way of imaging different parts of the body using a small amount of radioactive isotope attached to different chemicals. The isotope is normally given as an injection into a vein but can be inhaled or swallowed depending upon the test.

These isotopes give off gamma rays which are similar to X-rays. A gamma camera is used to detect the rays and produce an image on the computer. Unlike ordinary X-rays nuclear imaging can be used to show how well an organ is working as well as what it looks like.

What is an Octreotide scan?

An Octreotide scan uses a special radioactive tracer that can attach to the surfaces of certain types of cells, this then allows us to see to what extent any of these cells are distributed within your body.

This information can then be used to plan future treatment.

The liquid radioactive tracer used in this test has to be given as an injection into your arm or hand and is no worse than a normal blood test.

After your injection you will be free to leave the department if you wish and return for your pictures approximately 3-4 hours later.

As a precaution we ask that you avoid prolonged close contact (over an hour at less than one metre) with any children or pregnant women, following your injection and for the rest of the day. This is to avoid them being exposed to unnecessary radiation.

Is there any preparation?

There are some medications that can interfere with an Octreotide scan, therefore, it is important for you to contact us (if we have not already spoken) and tell us what medication you are currently taking.

You can eat and drink normally through out this examination.

Can I bring a relative/friend?

Yes, but they should be over 18 and not pregnant.

What if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?

If you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant you should inform the department before attending for your scan. Also certain radioactive substances are excreted in breast milk. If you are breastfeeding you should inform the department prior to coming for your scan so you can be advised of any special precautions.

What happens during the scan?

Prior to your scan you will be asked to use the toilet and empty your bladder. You do not have to undress for the scan but will be asked to remove metal objects such as keys or coins from your pockets and to take off any jewellery.

The scan is taken with you lying on an examination couch underneath the gamma camera. The camera normally starts off above your head and after a short time the bed will move you out allowing the camera to scan down your body.

Following this first image the camera will reposition above you but this time it will rotate around you to build up a 3D Image of your chest and abdomen.

How long will it take?

The injection in the morning will take about 10 minutes; a series of images will be taken 3-4 hours later, which will last approximately 1 hour.

After your injection you will be given a time to come back for your images to be taken. If you are an outpatient you may leave the hospital until this time, although there is a waiting area for you to use should you wish to stay within the hospital.

Are there any side effects?

The injection does not cause any side effects nor will it make you sleepy. You will still be able to drive and carry on with any normal activities.

What are the risks?

Most things that we do in life or in medicine have a small risk and we want you to understand any risks involved. Please remember that we would not recommend this test if we did not think that the risks were outweighed by the potential benefits.

Radiation

The radioactive tracer injection exposes you to gamma rays which are a form of radiation similar to X-rays. We use as little radiation as possible - the amount you receive is very small and does not stay in the body for very long. It is similar to the amount used in many other X-rays or scans and is same as a few years' worth of the natural background radiation we all receive from the environment.

When do I get the results?

We cannot give you the results of the scan on the day that you attend. The scan will be reviewed and a written report sent to the doctor who referred you.

Your consultant will then arrange a follow up appointment to discuss the results of your scan.

What should I do if I have a query about my appointment?

If you have any queries, concerns, or wish to alter your appointment, please contact the department:

Tel: 01902 307999 ext. 6347

Monday – Friday between 9:00am and 4:00pm

If you need an interpreter, please let us know as soon as you receive your appointment and we will arrange one for you.

Children under 16 years should be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Please note that in view of patient confidentiality, we are unable to discuss any details concerning this appointment with anyone other than yourself without your permission.

Where is the Nuclear Imaging department?

The Nuclear Imaging department is on the 2nd floor of the Radiology department.

The Radiology Department is situated close to Greggs bakery in the atrium area in Zone A2.

A site map can be found on the reverse of your appointment letter.

Car Parking

The nearest car parks are P5 and P6. Please allow time to park as our car parking areas may be busy. Car parking is “pay as you leave”. There are designated spaces for disabled badge holders.

Public Transport

Details of the buses serving the hospital can be found on our website www.royalwolverhampton.nhs.uk under the tab “contact us”.

Alternatively visit www.nxbus.co.uk telephone them on 0121 254 7272.

Where can I get further information?

Websites:

For general information about radionuclide tests, visit the British Nuclear Medicine Society website: www.bnms.org.uk

If you wish to know more about the radiation used in medical examinations information can be found on the Public Health England website:
www.gov.uk

English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。