



Sandwell and West Birmingham
NHS Trust

Your Visit to the Nuclear Medicine Department

Information and advice for carers and relatives

Nuclear Medicine

General Information

City Hospital Dudley Road B18 7QH

Tel – 0121 507 4427 (main office)

Where is the department located?

The department is situated beside the X-ray department at City Hospital. From the main hospital entrance (NOT the Treatment Centre), go past COSTA coffee to the main corridor and X-ray/ Imaging department door is on your right. Use the buzzer to gain access. The Physics and Nuclear Medicine department is then signposted through X-ray, following a blue line on the floor.

What is involved?

For most tests, a small amount of radioactivity is injected into a vein in your child's arm or hand. Other tests involve a radioactive tablet or meal. Depending on the type of test, your child may have some pictures taken immediately or you may be asked to return at a given time later that day. For most pictures, your child will need to lie on a bed, staying still. Young children may need to be held by the staff or kept with the aid of a vacuum splint. Some children may benefit from being able to watch a familiar video or songs on your phone/tablet.

How much radiation is involved?

The amount of radiation your child receives is very small, it is similar to that from a CT scan. Our radioactive injections are prepared in accordance with your child's weight.

Will it hurt?

Your child will require a cannula (like those used on wards to give fluids or medication). Only the "pin-prick" of the needle may hurt a little, just as with a blood test. The liquid that we administer through the cannula won't hurt or make your child feeling unwell/sleepy.

Can my child have numbing cream for the injection?

Children over the age of 2 can have numbing cream applied in Nuclear Medicine. Please arrive 1 hour before your stated appointment time if you would like to use this.

Please note that children under 1 year of age may be asked to attend the CECU for the cannula insertion.

How long does the appointment last?

Different tests require different waiting times, from a few minutes to a few hours. Your child's appointment letter will explain about their specific test. You may be able to leave the department in between the injection and the scan, during which time most patients are able to eat and drink as normal.

Is there any necessary preparation for the test?

Please read the details in your appointment letter, for many tests there is no need to stop medications or fast. You may be asked to call in and let us know what medication your child is taking. Read the appointment letter carefully to check what you need to do in advance of the appointment.

What happens to the results of the scan?

The report and pictures are sent to the doctor who asked for the scan, this usually your child's paediatrician rather than their GP.

Do I need to take special precautions with nappies?

For many of our tests, the kidneys and urinary pathway is how our bodies clear the injections we use. This means that your child's nappies will be radioactive and we must be careful about where they are disposed of. At home, we would like to ensure that used nappies don't go straight into your household waste if your bin collection is the following day. Staff will ask you about this during your appointment. In the hospital, we ask you to return used nappies to the nuclear medicine staff rather than disposing of them in other areas of the hospital. Good hand hygiene should be followed.

Are there any precautions for brothers/sisters?

Please try to avoid bringing other children into the hospital where possible. Your child should not sleep in the same bed as other children for 24 hours after the test.

Can my child return to school or nursery after the test?

Children are welcome to return to school following their appointment.

Further information

British Nuclear Medicine Society (2013) Patients and carers. Available at: [https:// www.bnms.org.uk/page/PatientsCarers](https://www.bnms.org.uk/page/PatientsCarers) (Accessed 7 January 2021).

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