

Information about your Nuclear Medicine DaTSCAN

Your doctor has referred you for a Nuclear Medicine DaTSCAN.

It is important that you read the enclosed booklet **“Information about your Nuclear Medicine Test”** with this leaflet.

What is a DaTSCAN?

A DaTSCAN is a simple test that lets us take pictures of a specific part of your brain.

Do I need to do any special preparation before the DaTSCAN?

Some medication can affect your scan, so please bring a list of your current medication with you to the test.

You must contact the department in confidence on the telephone number on your appointment letter if you take any of the following:

- Amphetamines (including Dexamfetamine, Methylamphetamine)
- Bupropion
- Cannabidiol (including Savitex, Epidyolex, Cannabis)
- Cocaine
- Ephedrine or Modanifil
- Fentanyl
- Ketamine, Phencyclidine or Isoflurane
- Lithium
- Methylphenidate (including Ritalin, Concerta, Equasym, Medikinet)

You can eat and drink as normal.

What does a DaTSCAN involve?

On arrival we may give you some tablets as part of the test. Up to one hour later we will give you an injection of a small amount of radioactive liquid into your arm. Neither the tablets nor injection will make you feel unwell or affect you in any other way. After a wait of three hours we will take pictures of your brain.

During this time you can leave the department or stay with us. We will ask you to drink plenty of fluids, and to empty your bladder frequently, this is to wash the radioactive liquid through your body. You can eat as normal.

How long does the scan last?

Scans typically last 30 - 45 minutes.

Your appointment

If you can't make this appointment please tell us as soon as possible – we can arrange another appointment. Please phone the number on your appointment letter.

Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

Where possible we try to avoid performing DaTscan imaging on patients who are, or may be pregnant. Therefore please contact the department if you are:

- Pregnant
- Breast-feeding
- You think you could be pregnant

Please allow up to **five hours** for this appointment.

If you are booking transport through the Scottish Ambulance Service please contact them as soon as possible and tell them that you will be in the department for approximately 5 hours.