

Information for Patients Having a Lung Scan During Pregnancy

Your doctor has referred you for a Nuclear Medicine Lung Scan.

What is a Lung Scan?

A Lung scan is a simple test that lets us take pictures of both the air and blood supply to your lungs.

Do I need to prepare for the Lung Scan?

There is no special preparation for this test, you can eat and drink as normal. If you are currently **breast-feeding** please tell a member of staff.

What does a Lung Scan involve?

We will ask you to breathe in a radioactive gas to allow us to take pictures of the **air** supply to your lungs. We will also give you an injection of a small amount of radioactive liquid to allow us to take pictures of the **blood** supply to your lungs. As you are pregnant you will receive a reduced amount of radiation to minimise the risk to you and your baby.

For the scan we will ask you to lie still on a scanning bed which we move into the camera. The person taking the pictures will fully explain the scan at the time.

How long does the scan last?

Scans typically last between 30 – 60 minutes.

Radiation Risks – Putting it in perspective.

We are all exposed to natural background radiation every day of our lives. By having this nuclear medicine test you and your baby will receive a small amount of radiation in addition to the natural background radiation you already receive. This test carries a very low risk from radiation.

The benefits from making the right diagnosis outweigh the low risk involved with the radiation itself.

More information?

If you would like more information about the radiation, or the test, please ask a member of staff.