NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

Nuclear Medicine Brain Perfusion Scan

Your doctor has referred you for a Nuclear Medicine Brain Perfusion Scan.

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

What is a Brain Perfusion Scan?

A Brain Perfusion scan is a simple test that lets us take pictures of the blood supply to your brain.

Do I need to do any special preparation before the Brain Perfusion Scan?

There is no special preparation for this test, but please bring a list of your current medication.

What does a Brain Perfusion Scan involve?

A brain perfusion scan involves waiting for up to 30 minutes in a quiet environment, we then inject a small amount of radioactive liquid into your arm. The injection lets us take pictures of your brain. After a wait of 20 minutes we will take the pictures of your brain with a Gamma Camera, and we may also take further pictures using the CT scanner if required.

After the test 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. After the test you can eat and take medication as normal.

How long does the scan last?

Scans typically last up to 30 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 brain perfusion scans 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

If you are booking transport through the Scottish Ambulance Service please contact them as soon as possible and advise them you will be in the department for approximately 2 hours.

Review Date: August 2026