

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

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

What is a Gallium Scan?

A Gallium scan is a simple test that helps identify and localise areas of infection, inflammation or increased metabolic function within your body.

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

There is no special preparation for this test, you can eat and drink as normal.

What does a Gallium Scan involve?

A Gallium scan involves two visits to the Nuclear Medicine department.

Visit 1: Involves an injection of a small amount of radioactive liquid into your arm or hand. You can go home after the injection is done. We may give you some bowel preparation to take before your next visit.

Visit 2: Three days after your injection you return to the department and we take a series of pictures. Please check your appointment letter for details. Sometimes further pictures are necessary; staff will advise you if this is the case.

During the time between visits we 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 and take medication as normal.

How long does the scan last?

Scans may last up to 2 hours.

Your appointment

If you can't make this appointment please tell us as soon as possible – we can arrange another appointment.

Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

Where possible we try to avoid performing Gallium 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

Children and Pregnant Persons

If you are the sole provider of close care for small children please contact the department as soon as possible to discuss any special instructions you may need after your test.

We ask you to restrict contact with anyone who is pregnant for 3 days after your injection.

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 1 hour for visit 1 and 3 hours for visit 2.