

Nuclear Medicine White Cell Scan

- 1 day test

Your doctor has referred you for a Nuclear Medicine white cell scan.

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

What is a white cell scan?

A white cell scan is a simple test used to look for infection or inflammation in the body.

Do I need to do any special preparation before the white cell scan?

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

What does a white cell scan involve?

A white cell scan involves taking a blood sample from your arm in order to collect some of your white blood cells. These are the cells in your blood that are normally involved in fighting infection in your body. Over approximately two hours, we mix these cells with a small amount of radioactive tracer, then reinject them back into your arm. After a delay of 1 - 4 hours we will take a series of pictures. The timings of your pictures depend on the area of the body being looked at and this will be stated in your appointment letter.

Depending on the area of your body being looked at we may also ask you not to eat once you receive your injection until we have taken all the required pictures.

How long does the scan last?

The whole test usually takes up to six hours to complete, most of this is waiting time and you can leave the department or stay with us.

Scans typically last between 15 - 60mins.

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 white cell 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 6 hours.