

# Information about your Nuclear Medicine Parathyroid Scan



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

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

## What is a Parathyroid Scan?

A parathyroid scan is a simple test that lets us take pictures of your parathyroid glands in your neck.

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

Some medications (including thyroxine, liothyronine, and cinacalcet) can interfere with the test and affect the results. If you have not spoken to us already you **must** call the department, using the telephone number at the **top right hand side** of your letter to give us a list of your current medication. If you need to stop any medication before the test we will give you specific instructions.

You may eat and drink as normal before the test.

## What does a Parathyroid Scan involve?

A parathyroid scan involved two injections of a small amount of radioactive liquid into your arm. The injections are given 90 - 120 minutes apart, and after the second injection we will take a series of pictures of your parathyroid glands in your neck.

If the pictures aren't clear enough we may need to take more pictures about 90 minutes later. The staff performing your test will let you know if extra pictures are needed and when to return for these.

You can eat and drink as normal during the test. We ask you to drink plenty of fluids, and to empty your bladder frequently for the rest of the day, this is to wash the radioactive liquid through your body.

## How long does the scan last?

The scan can take up to 1 hour. The appointment normally lasts up to 4 hours, but for some patients can take up to 6 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 parathyroid 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

If you are the sole provider of close care for small children please contact the department on receipt of this letter to discuss any special instructions that may be required after your test.

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 4 hours.