

Nuclear Medicine DaTSCAN

Information for patients

This leaflet will provide you with the necessary information about your Dopamine Active Transfer scan (DaTSCAN).

What is a DaTSCAN?

A DaTSCAN is a scan of the brain. DaTSCAN contains the active substance ioflupane (I123) which is used to help diagnose abnormalities in the brain. It belongs to a group of medicines called “radiopharmaceuticals”, which contain a small amount of radioactivity.

DaTSCAN can be used to differentiate between Parkinson Disease and similar conditions such as essential tremor. It can also be used to give information about the brain of patients who are suffering from memory loss. This scan will show exactly where the radioactivity is inside the brain and give the doctor valuable information about your condition and decide on possible treatment.

Preparation for the DaTSCAN

Please inform us before you attend:

- If you are or think you may be pregnant
- If you are breastfeeding
- If you have problems weight bearing and need a hoist to be transferred
- If you are unable to lie still and flat on your back for 45 minutes

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

If you think that you are pregnant or think you may possibly be pregnant you must inform the department. This is because the foetus may receive some of the radioactivity.

If you are breast-feeding, your doctor may delay the use of DaTSCAN, or ask you to stop breast-feeding.

On the day of your appointment you will be asked to take two tablets of Potassium iodide one hour prior to the injection of DaTSCAN. This medication is required to block your thyroid to prevent unnecessary radiation to the thyroid gland.

Some medications affect the results of the DaTSCAN

Prior to the scan you will be required to stop the following medications for at least 2 days before your scan.

The table lists the drugs that need to be stopped. Please contact us if you want us to review your list of medications with you.

**INTERVAL
MEDICATION NEEDS
TO BE STOPPED.**

**STOP for 2 days
before scan**

NO NEED TO STOP

MEDICATION

CNS, stimulants

Cocaine, Amphetamine, Methamphetamine

Drugs for anorexia and obesity

Phentermine (Ionamin), mazindol,
phenylpropanolamine, Norephedrine

Drugs for ADHD, narcolepsy

Methylphenidate

Anti-depressants/Anxiety

Bupropion, Sertraline, Amoxapine, Buspirane,
Selegiline, Paroxetine, Citalopram

Anticholinergics

Benzatropine

Levodopa and similar combination drugs

Levodopa (L-DOPA),
Co-beneldopa (Madopar)
Co-careldopa (Sinemet)

Dopamine agonists

Pergolide (Celance), Bromocriptine (Parlodel),
lisuride, Apomorphine (APO-go, Britaject),
Ropinirole (Requip), Pramipexole (Mirapexin)

Anticholinergics

Biperiden (Akineton) Procyclidine (Arpicolin,
Kemadrin), Orphenadrine (Biorphen),
Trihexyphenidyl/Benzhexol (Broflex)

MAO-B, COMT inhibitors

Eldepryl, Zelapar, Entacapone (Comtess)

The DaTSCAN

The test involves having a small injection of radioactive tracer into a vein in your hand or arm. You will then be asked to return to the department, approximately 3-4 hours after the injection, for the scan. During this interval you can leave the department and eat and drink normally. On your return please allow 60 to 90 minutes in the department.

You will not be asked to get undressed, but you will be asked to remove any jewellery prior to the scan. The scans are taken with the gamma cameras very close to you but you will not be enclosed in a tunnel or be left alone at any time.

The scan usually takes 45 minutes and you will have to lie perfectly still on your back during this time. We will make every effort to make you comfortable.

Due to the nature of the test it is advisable not to bring children to the department, unless they are the patient.

After effects of a DaTSCAN

There are no known after effects from a DaTSCAN. You will be able to drive, travel by public transport and return to work if necessary. You will be advised to drink plenty of fluids and empty your bladder often. This assists the tracer to discard from your body quickly. You will not need to take any precautions.

What are the risks of a DaTSCAN Scan?

The amount of radiation that you will receive from this investigation is very low and similar to the natural background radiation we all receive from the environment over a period of 24 months.

Where is a DaTSCAN performed?

The DaTSCAN is only performed in the Nuclear Medicine SPECT CT Department which is situated in the X-Ray Department. On arrival, please book in at **X-Ray Reception** on the **Ground Floor**, close to the **Outpatient Entrance**.

Who can accompany me for the scan?

We would prefer that you do not bring more than one person with you.

Results of the DaTSCAN

The DaTSCAN images will be reported by a Nuclear Medicine Radiologist and the report will be forwarded to the doctor who requested the scan.

Travel Abroad

If you intend to travel abroad within five days of your scan please keep your appointment letter to take with you when you travel.

Arriving at the hospital

Please book in at **X-Ray Reception** on the **Ground Floor**, close to the **Outpatient Entrance**.

As there is limited parking at the hospital, please allow extra time when planning your journey. If possible, please use public transport.

Please note there are no childcare facilities available and children regrettably are not permitted to enter the examination rooms, unless they are having a scan.

DIABETIC PATIENTS: Please phone 01895 279368 for further instructions.

DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING DATASET (DID): Information from your diagnostic test will contribute to the Diagnostic Imaging Dataset (DID). This is a secure database that holds

information on the imaging tests and scans carried out on NHS patients. This will allow the Health and Social Care Information Centre to see how different tests are used across the country. Anonymised images may also be used for educational and academic purposes, both nationally and internationally.

Nothing will be reported that identifies you. It is only made available to appropriate staff and is kept strictly confidential. However, if you do not want your information to be stored in the DID, please let us know on the day of your scan and we will make sure your information is not copied into the DID.

Who should I contact if I have a problem or question?

Monday to Friday, 8am to 4.30pm – please contact Nuclear Medicine SPECT CT Department on 01895 279368. Out of hours you should contact your GP.

Languages/ Alternative Formats

Please ask if you require this information in other languages, large print or audio format. Please contact: 01895 279973

Fadlan waydii haddii aad warbixintan ku rabto luqad ama hab kale. Fadlan la xidhiidh 01895 279 973

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਜਾਂ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਪਤਾ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ 01895 279973 ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ

برائے مہربانی جے تہاؤں اے اطلاع کے اور زبان یا انداز و جچا ہی دی اے تے پتہ کرن لئی 01895 279 973
رابطہ کرو

தயவுசெய்து, வேற்று மொழிகளில் இத் தகவல்கள், கட்டுமானம் தேவையெனில், கேளுங்கள்.! தயவுசெய்து 01895 279973 இலக்கத்துடன் தொடர்பு கொள்ளுங்கள்.!

Jeżeli chciałbyś uzyskać te informacje w innym języku, w dużej czcionce lub w formacie audio, poproś pracownika oddziału o kontakt z biurem informacji pacjenta (patient information) pod numerem telefonu: 01895 279973.

如果你需要這些資料的其他語言版本、大字体、或音頻格式，請致電01895 279 973 查詢。

إذا كنت تود الحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، بالأحرف الكبيرة أو بشكل شريط صوتي، يرجى الاتصال بالرقم التالي 01895279973 .