Nuclear Medicine DPD Cardiac scan

Patient Information
This leaflet will provide you with the necessary information about your DPD Cardiac scan.

What is a DPD Cardiac scan?
A DPD scan is a diagnostic examination to determine the anatomy and function of your heart so as to determine the extent of amyloid deposits. This is a build-up of an abnormal protein in the body that can make it difficult for the organs and tissues to work properly.

Preparation for the DPD Cardiac scan
You may eat and drink prior to your appointment and take your medication as prescribed by your doctor. No preparation is required other than we ask you to be well-hydrated.

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 breastfeeding
It is important that you notify the Nuclear Medicine SPECT CT staff if you are (or think you could be) pregnant or are breastfeeding prior to your scan. This study is not suitable for pregnant women because of the radiation dose to the growing foetus. Women who are looking after very young children will be given appropriate advice by the Nuclear Medicine SPECT CT staff. This is because a small amount of radioactivity may be released from the body for a period of time after the scan.

The DPD Cardiac scan
In the Nuclear Medicine SPECT CT Department you will receive a radioisotope injection. A scan will be undertaken after an interval of 3 hours followed by a SPECT CT.

The Nuclear Medicine SPECT CT team will inform you when to return for your scan and time period it will take.

Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography (SPECT)
SPECT images are obtained following an injection which contains a small amount of radioactivity. This is used to determine how an area of the body is functioning. During the SPECT procedure two gamma cameras rotate in a 360 degree arc allowing for reconstruction of three dimensional images.

Computed Tomography (CT)
CT images are obtained while you lie on the same imaging bed. The bed slides through the centre of the scanner. Again, the scanner rotates over a 360 degree arc allowing for three dimensional image reconstructions. This shows the anatomy of the area under investigation.
SPECT CT
A SPECT CT scan is made up of two separate components, a SPECT and a CT scan. The images from each scan are fused together. The fused images can provide more accurate information about the anatomy and function of the cardiac area being scanned.

After effects of a DPD Cardiac scan
There are no known after effects from a DPD Cardiac scan and or SPECT CT scan. The radioisotope can take up to 24 hours to discard from the body so you will be advised to drink plenty of fluids and empty your bladder often. This aids the radioisotope to discard from your body quickly. You will be able to drive and travel by public transport.

What are the risks of a DPD Cardiac 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 maximum period of 19 months.

Where is a DPD Cardiac scan performed?
The DPD Cardiac Scan 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.

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

Who can accompany me for the scan?
We would prefer that you do not bring more than one person with you.

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.

Results of the DPD Cardiac scan?
The DPD Cardiac scan 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 5 days of your scan please keep your appointment letter to take with you when you travel.

Diabetic patients
Please phone 01895 279973 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.

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