

Information for parents

DMSA Scan (kidney)

This leaflet is for children and parents to give them some information about DMSA scans.

What is a DMSA scan?

The doctor has asked for your child to have a special scan called a DMSA scan. It works by injecting a chemical called dimercaptosuccinic acid (DMSA) linked to a radioisotope in to the vein of your child through a cannula.

The scan shows how well your child's kidneys are working and is very sensitive in detecting damage or scars caused by previous urinary tract infection.

What are the risks?

The amount of radioactive isotope given to your child is calculated according to your child's weight and the radiation dose is less than a tenth of that from a CT scan. The radioisotope injected into your child becomes inactive after few hours and is passed out of your child body in urine and faeces. Your doctor will carefully consider the risks and benefits of doing the test in your child.

Before the procedure

Your child can eat and drink as normal. There is no need to fast for this test.

This test takes several hours. Due of the long waiting times, you may want to bring books or toys for your child.

At the appointment

The doctor will ask whether your child is allergic to any medicines or contrast dye that may be used during the test. Older girls will be asked if they are pregnant. This is because ionising radiation from X rays may harm an unborn baby.

An anaesthetic cream will be applied on your child arm or hand and a cannula will be inserted.

Your child will be given a small injection of radioactive substance. It takes three to four hours for the kidneys to take up the maximum amount of this substance and to obtain the best pictures.

Sometimes, your child may be asked to go to the toilet just before the scan to make sure his or her bladder is empty.

During the scan, your child will need to lie still on a scanning bed while a large camera above him or her takes the pictures. You will be able to stay with you child at all times and you hold their hand. You may also bring a soft toy or their favourite book. Playing 'sleeping lions' can be a fun way to practice lying still.

After the scan, your child may usually go home straight away.

After the scan

The radioactive substance lasts for only a short period of time and usually disappears from the body within 24 hours.

During this period, please ensure strict hand washing following toileting or nappy changes and ensure that potties are cleaned thoroughly. During this time, please place nappies in an outside bin. If your child accidentally wets his or her clothes or bedding, put these in a separate bag for 24 hours and then wash them as normal.

Pregnant women should avoid direct contact with the child's urine or faeces for 24 hours.

The results of the scan will be sent to the doctor who requested the scan and an appointment will be send to you to discuss the results with your doctor.

Should you have any worries or concerns within the first 24 hours after leaving hospital, please feel free to contact us on 01284 713315.

If you have any specific concerns that you feel have not been answered, please contact

Rainbow Ward

01284 713315

References

- Infokid.org.uk., information for parents and carers about children's kidney conditions.
- Addenbrooke's Hospital MAG 3 scan parents information leaflet.

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the hospital website www.wsh.nhs.uk and click on the link, or visit the disabledgo website:

<http://www.disabledgo.com/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust/main>