In the Introduction or aim section, we have been requested by your consultant to arrange a Meckels isotope scan. This study is performed in our Nuclear Medicine Department and enables us to identify abdominal problems caused by the possible presence of a Meckel’s diverticulum, a small bulge in the small intestine.

The aim of this leaflet is to explain what you can expect when you come for your nuclear medicine scan.

What is nuclear medicine?
Nuclear medicine is a method of imaging the body using a gamma camera and using radiopharmaceuticals (radioactive ‘dyes’).

To look at the function of the body, nuclear medicine uses gamma rays. These are very similar to x-rays except gamma rays are produced by a radiopharmaceutical dye injected into the bloodstream.

The radiation dose is kept as low as possible, similar to an x-ray dose, which means that it may take quite a long time to create the images.

What should I do if I cannot attend for the appointment?
Please inform us as soon as possible on 01623 622515, ext 3284 or 3205 if you are unable to attend. A special injection will be prepared for your scan and cannot be used on any other patient.

Am I suitable for an isotope scan?
Most patients are suitable for an isotope scan. However, you must ring us on 01623 622515, ext 3284 or 3205 for advice if:

- You are pregnant
- There is any possibility that you may be pregnant
- You are breastfeeding
- You weigh over 30 stones (200 kilos).

How do I prepare for this scan?
Before we can start scanning, you will need to take the prescribed tablets.

- On the morning before your appointment day, you will need to take the first dose (200mg cimetidine) with your breakfast
- Take the second dose with lunch (200mg)
- Take the third dose with your evening meal (200mg)
- Have nothing else to eat after your evening meal, just a small drink of your choice before going to bed
- On the morning of your appointment, you will need to take the remaining two tablets with a small drink of water, no food is allowed.

YOU MUST HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO EAT OR DRINK BEFORE YOUR SCAN.
You will be asked if you would like to listen to music throughout your scan - you may bring your own CD if you wish.

What happens during the scan?
You will need to report to the reception desk in the original X-ray Department adjacent to the Emergency Department. You will be directed to the Nuclear Medicine Department.
- You will be given an injection into a vein in your arm
- You will be required to lie on the imaging couch while the scan takes place
- The gamma camera will be close to you, without touching, but you will never be totally enclosed
- Please allow approximately 45 minutes for the scan.

Are there any risks to having an isotope scan?
The benefit from the isotope scan outweighs the small risk from radiation.

The scan results will allow your consultant to make the correct treatment decision for you.

To avoid babies and children being exposed to unnecessary radiation, it is good practice to avoid prolonged contact with them for at least 12 hours following the injection.

Can I drive after my scan?
Yes, there is no restriction on driving after your scan.

How do I get the results?
All the images produced are reviewed by a consultant radiologist who is a doctor specialising in reporting this type of scan. You will then be sent an appointment to see your hospital doctor to discuss the results when they are available.

Contact details
If you have any concerns or require more information, please call 01623 622515, ext 3284 or 3205.

Useful website
You may also like to read
http://www.goingfora.com/radiology/nuclear_medicine.html

Further sources of information
Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)
The PALS team is available to help with any of your comments, compliments or concerns and will ensure a prompt and efficient service. Contact details:
- King’s Mill Hospital 01623 672222
  (out of hours answer phone)
  Email: Pals.kmh@sfh-tr.nhs.uk
- Newark Hospital 01636 685692
  (out of hours answer phone)
  Email: Pals.nwk@sfh-tr.nhs.uk

If you need this information in a different language or format, please contact PALS, as above.

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