



Information about your lung shunt scan

Contact information

Phone: 0121 371 2327 **Opening hours:** Monday to Friday, 08:30 to 17:00

Please read the following information carefully as it contains important information about your scan.

What is a lung shunt scan?

This is a Nuclear Medicine test that looks at how the blood flows through your heart and if the blood goes around your body instead of straight to your lungs.

Is it safe?

For this scan, you will be injected with a small amount of radioactive tracer to take pictures of your body and the risk associated with this is low.

The small risk from this is outweighed by the information gained from having the scan. A medical professional will have checked the request to make sure this test is appropriate for you. If you have any concerns or would like further information, please contact the department. If you do not understand why you need to have this scan, please speak to the doctor who referred you.

For all patients aged between 11-55

If you know you are pregnant, or there is a chance that you may be pregnant, please contact the department as soon as possible, as the scan may be postponed if it is not urgent.

In line with national guidance from the Society of Radiographers, inclusive practice (or behaving in a way that makes all people or groups of people feel included and valued) is integral to effective healthcare.

If you are aged between 11 and 55, you will be asked to sign a form asking questions about any potential pregnancy and your registered sex at birth.

This is to ensure safe testing and accurate diagnosis when reviewing your images, as we will need to be aware of any potential variations in your anatomy.

This information will be stored sensitively and confidentially.

Please also contact the department if you are breast feeding, as we may need to give you special instructions.

If you require any further information about any of this or if you have any questions, please contact the department.

Preparing for your scan

There are no special preparations for this scan. You can eat, drink, and take any medicines as normal.

Attending your scan

It is very important to be on time for your appointment. If you are unable to attend or are going to be delayed, please telephone the department at the earliest opportunity. If you are late for your appointment, it may have to be rescheduled.

Please **DO NOT** bring children or anyone who is/may be pregnant with you to your appointment. Please only bring a relative, friend or carer with you if it is essential to do so. In order to accompany you to some of the areas in the department where restrictions are in place, it may be necessary to provide your relative, friend or carer with further information before permitting entry.

If you are travelling via hospital transport, please contact the department ahead of you attending, as we may need to adjust the time slot to offer you an earlier appointment. There is a telephone number on your appointment letter to contact Hospital Transport.

Your injection

A small amount of radioactive tracer will be injected into a vein in your arm or hand, whilst you are on the scan couch. This is much the same as a blood test you may have had in the past.

Your scan

You may be asked to change into a hospital gown to remove any clothing with metal objects like buttons, belts, zips or hooks. Alternatively, you may choose to wear comfortable clothing with no metal parts.

The pictures are taken by a special machine called a gamma camera. You will be asked to lie on a bed with a camera underneath you and another one above you. This is not a tunnel, but the camera will come close to you.

If you think this may be difficult, are claustrophobic or would like to see one of our cameras prior to attending, please call the department before your appointment.

The scan will start almost immediately and takes 10-15 minutes. It is important you keep still during this time.

After your scan

It is very unlikely you will feel any side-effects after the injection or scan but, if you think that you have, please let the department know as soon as possible.

After your scan there will be some radioactivity left in your body, but this does not present a significant risk to others around you. We ask you drink plenty of fluids and pass urine frequently, this will help clear the radioactivity from your body.

After 24 hours, most of the radioactivity will have left your body.

For the rest of the day, we advise that you try to limit close contact (within an arm's length) with pregnant people, babies, and young children, as much as possible, but there is no need to stop giving children essential love and care. If you have any questions about this, please contact the department.

Travelling abroad

It is perfectly safe for you to travel abroad after your scan, but many airports and seaports are equipped with very sensitive radiation detectors, which could detect the small amount of radioactivity left in your body. Please let staff know if you intend to travel abroad within one week of your scan, we can provide you with documentation to take with you.

Your results

Your lung shunt scan will be looked at by a specialist doctor, who will issue a report. The report will be sent to the doctor who asked for the scan and not your GP. This is because the doctor who asked for your scan may have the results of other tests and can tell you how this affects your care.

Information about you

As part of your care, information will be shared only where necessary with clinical staff. Information may be used to help train other staff, or to improve our quality of care. It will all be treated as confidential and your details will be removed where possible.

Translation and interpretation service

Should you require an interpreter, please contact the department prior to your appointment so that we arrange this.

If you do not wish to use the hospital translation service, it is possible for a member of your family or a friend to translate for you, but this must be done in accordance with hospital policy and your friends/family member will need to sign a disclaimer.

If you require this information in another format or language, please contact the department.

Teaching, training and research

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training, and research to support the development of health and healthcare in our community. Healthcare students may observe procedures for this purpose but only with your consent.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS offer impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers. We can listen to feedback (positive and negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services.

Please ask a member of staff for directions to the onsite Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) office. PALS can also be contacted on 0121 371 3280, or email pals@uhb.nhs.uk

More information

All staff would like to make your visit as pleasant as possible. If you have any concerns or ideas to improve our services, please talk to a member of the team or ask at Reception for a Patient Satisfaction Survey form.

Accessibility

To view this information in a different language or use text-to-speech reader visit www.uhb.nhs.uk, click the yellow and black circular icon in the bottom right of the web page to open the ReachDeck toolbar and then use the search bar to search by the name of the leaflet. If you require this information in another format such as braille, please email interpreting.service@uhb.nhs.uk.

