



## Information About Your Dacrocintigraphy Scan

### Contact Information

**Phone:** 0121 371 2327    **Opening Hours:** Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5.00pm

### What is a Dacrocintigraphy scan?

This scan is a Nuclear Medicine test that looks at the drainage of your tear ducts and may identify any blockages.

A droplet of radioactive tracer is put into each eye and images are taken at intervals of up to about one hour afterwards.

### Is it safe?

This scan uses a small amount of radiation to take pictures of your tear ducts 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 require 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 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, for 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**

**Please do not wear makeup on the day of your appointment.**

If you wear contact lenses, we will ask you to remove them prior to the test. 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 your appointment, 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 Scan**

We will take you to the scanner room and ask you to sit on and lean back in a chair, wipe your eyes, look up and we will gently pull your bottom eyelid down.

A droplet of radioactive tracer will be administered to each eye in the outer corner.

We will then position your head in a headrest (this assists with keeping you still for the scan) in front of the scanner.

Immediately after the drops have been given, we will start taking pictures with the scanner. It is important you stay still and, if your eyes water, please tell a member of staff and we will dab your eyes.

The first set of pictures will take 15 minutes. A second set of pictures will be taken 15 minutes after this and a third set 15 minutes after the second.

## **After Your Scan**

It is very unlikely that you will feel any side-effects from the radioactive tracer or the scan but if you think that you have, please let the Nuclear Medicine 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 day of your scan, we advise you keep any time you spend within arm's length of anyone pregnant, babies, and small children you see on a regular basis as short 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 about this.

## **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 48 hours of your scan, to provide you with documentation for this.

## **Your Results**

Your dacroscintigraphy scan will be looked at by a specialist doctor, who will issue a report. The report will be sent back to the Doctor who requested the scan and not your GP. This is because the Doctor who requested 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. 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 listen to feedback (positive and negative), answer questions and help resolve concerns.

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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:interpreting.service@uhb.nhs.uk).

