

SeHCAT scan (Day 7)

Patient information factsheet

What is a Nuclear Medicine Scan?

- A nuclear medicine scan is a very common medical procedure.
- It uses small amounts of radioactive materials to show a specific organ.
- This helps your Doctor diagnose (find the problem) and, in some cases, treat some diseases.
- The scan uses a gamma camera to look for signs of disease.
- It shows the Doctor how well your organs are working. Other types of scans show what your organs look like.

What is a SeHCAT scan?

- **A SeHCAT scan is a two-day test, which is performed a week apart.**
- It allows us to check how well your gut can absorb bile acids.
- Poor absorption of the bile acid can result in chronic diarrhoea.
- This investigation helps us decide what is the best treatment for you.
- **You will have 2 scans: one on day 1 and another on day 7.**

Do I have to do anything to prepare for this procedure?

- If you were asked to stop taking Cholestyramine (sequestran), Colestipol, Colesevalam, Creon and Loperamide (Imodium) before you had your 1st Day scan, please do not resume your medication until completing your 7th day scan.

What happens on the day of the scan?

- Please come straight to the Nuclear Medicine department for this scan: there is no need to register at Imaging main reception.
- **This scan is done seven days after taking the radioactive capsule during your 1st Day scan.**
- You can eat and take medications (**other than Cholestyramine (sequestran), Colestipol, Colesevalam, Creon and Loperamide, as listed above**) before coming for this appointment.
- This scan will be done the same way as the 1st Day scan and will also take about 5 minutes.
- **You should already have received another letter related to your 1st day appointment.**

Is it dangerous?

- The scans are safe and painless.
- Because a small amount of radioactive tracer is used, there is only a very small risk of radiation exposure.
- If you have any worries or questions about the scan, please talk to your Doctor or contact the Nuclear Medicine department.

Are there any precautions?

- Please tell the Nuclear Medicine Technologist or Radiographer if you might be pregnant or are breastfeeding before you come to your appointment.
- **You might need to stop breastfeeding for a short time after your scan.**
- Please tell us if you are very afraid of needles (needle phobia), feel anxious in small spaces (claustrophobia), or cannot lie down flat.
- Please also tell us if you had any tests involving administration of a radioactive tracer before this appointment or if you have been booked to have one before your 7th day SeHCAT scan is done.

How do I get my result?

- You will need to have completed both the 1st day scan and the 7th day scan before a report can be done.
- A Radiologist reviews (looks at) the scan and sends the report to the Specialist Doctor who asked for it. They will then contact you directly.
- This can take about 2 to 3 weeks.

Is there anything else I should know?

- You will need to lie down flat and stay still during the scan. Moving can make the pictures unclear.
- **Please do not bring anyone with you who is pregnant or under 18 years old.** This is because there are radioactive materials in the department.
- **We do not allow anyone under 18** to interpret for patients.
- If you need an interpreter, please tell the Nuclear Medicine department, and they will arrange one for you.

Contact our service

Email: whh-tr.nuclearmedwhitthealth@nhs.net

Monday to Thursday, 9 am to 5 pm: 020 7288 5517.

Friday: Please call our mobile on 07747 037 143.

Contact our Trust

If you have a compliment, complaint or concern, please contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on **020 7288 5551** or whh-tr.PALS@nhs.net.

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet, please email whh-tr.patient-information@nhs.net. We will try our best to meet your needs.

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