

## Meckel's scan

### Patient information factsheet

#### What is a Nuclear Medicine Scan?

- A nuclear medicine scan is a very common medical procedure.
- It uses a small amount of radioactive material to highlight a specific body organ.
- This helps your Doctor diagnose (find the problem) and, in some cases, treat a number of health problems.
- 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 Meckel's Scan?

- A Meckel's scan is a special type of test that helps doctors look for a Meckel's diverticulum.
- A Meckel's diverticulum is a small pouch in the wall of the bowel that some people are born with. It can sometimes cause bleeding, pain, or other problems.
- This test is helpful because it can show tissue that might not show up on regular X-rays or scans.

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

- Yes, you will need to fast for 8 hours before the scan (**No food or drink, including water**).

## What happens on the day of the scan?

- When you arrive, you will lie on the bed, and a small amount of radioactive tracer will be injected into one of your veins.
- This will help us find the presence of a Meckel's diverticulum using our special camera.
- The scan will start straight away after the injection.
- It will take about one hour to take the images.
- Sometimes, after looking at the first images, we may need to take more pictures. This can take up to an extra hour.

## 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.

## What happens after the scan?

- Drink plenty of water.
- The radioactive tracer leaves your body through your pee (urine). Drinking plenty of water will help to get rid of it faster.
- **Do not have any blood or urine tests for 24 hours after your scan because the radioactive tracer may still be in your body.**

## How do I get my result?

- 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.
- The scan can take anywhere from 15 to 60 minutes. This will depend on the type of procedure you are having.
- **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:whh-tr.patient-information@nhs.net). We will try our best to meet your needs.

**020 7272 3070** | Whittington Health NHS Trust, Magdala Avenue, London, N19 5NF  
[www.whittington.nhs.uk](http://www.whittington.nhs.uk) | [x.com/WhitHealth](https://x.com/WhitHealth) | [facebook.com/WhittingtonHealth](https://facebook.com/WhittingtonHealth)

## Document information

Date published: 27/01/2026 | Review date: 27/01/2028 | Ref: ACW/Imag/MeckScan/02  
© Whittington Health NHS Trust. Please recycle.