

### **Thirty minutes is a long time, can my child bring a toy?**

You are very welcome to bring toys. Ideally any toy you bring should not stimulate your child. We do have facilities to play CDs and videos , but not DVDs.

### **What happens after the scan?**

The scan is reported by a radiologist and the report is sent to the doctor requesting the scan. The report will only go to your GP if they have requested the scan. Typically you will receive the results of the scan the next time you visit the doctor looking after you. Your doctor will be able discuss what future tests or treatment you may need.

### **Is there anything else I should know?**

The radioactive dye is passed out of your child's body via their urine. If they drink plenty and go to the toilet often they will remove the dye from their body faster. Typically the majority of the dye has broken down or left the body within 24

The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust  
Magdala Avenue  
London  
N19 5NF

Phone: 020 7272 3070  
Nuclear medicine department 020 7288 5888 (Mon – Fri 9 am to 5 pm)

Date published: 31.12.10  
Ref: IMG/PaedN/1

©The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust  
Please recycle

## **General information to help with your child's nuclear medicine scan**

### **A patient's guide**



All paed



GE Infinia Gamma Camera

### **Why is the scan being done?**

Most Nuclear Medicine scans performed on children are to examine the kidneys. There are three main types of scan:

- DMSA: this checks for any scarring of the kidneys and is usually performed if your child has a history of urine infections. It can also be used to confirm if the kidneys are working.
- Renogram: this checks how the kidneys are working in greater detail. It can, for example, give information about any blockages in the kidneys.
- Cystogram: this is an extension to renogram procedure which is used to check if any urine flows back to the kidneys when your child goes to the toilet a condition called reflux.

### **Is there anything special I should do?**

It is important to arrive for the scan one hour prior to the appointment time. Once you have booked in at the imaging department reception you will be sent to the Roses Day Care on the fourth floor.

The staff there will apply anaesthetic cream and insert a cannula (needle) in the child's arm, hand or foot. It will improve the quality of the pictures if your child has plenty to drink on the day of the scan. We advise about two pints for adults but please adjust this for your child. You know your child better than we do.

### **Can my child eat on the day of the scan?**

Yes, there are no restrictions on eating, drinking or taking medicines.

### **Will my child feel unwell?**

No, there are side effects to the radioactive dyes we use for the scans.

### **Can I be with my child?**

Yes, in most cases we find that having the parents present makes the experience less frightening for the child.

### **I have other children can they come?**

No, not unless someone accompanies you who can look after any other children. You will need to be with your child having the scan. Your child will have to keep still during the scan. No other children are allowed in the room as this tends to cause a distraction and there are no staff to look after any child left in the waiting area.

### **Will I be seen at my appointment time?**

We try very hard to run to time but delays can and do occur. If this happens we will do our best to keep you informed.

### **How long does the scan take?**

Typically about 30 minutes. During this time your child will need to keep as still as possible.