If you have any questions or concerns, or if you cannot attend the appointment your child has been given, please contact your nuclear medicine department immediately

Your Child's Visit to the Nuclear Medicine Department for a Bone scan



Betsy Bunny

Nuclear Medicine

You can read Betsy Bunny has a Bone Scan to your child to reassure them and inform them about the scan.

Your doctor has requested that your child has a Bone scan in the Nuclear Medicine Department. This leaflet will try to answer some of your questions.

What is a Bone scan?

A scan is performed to help the doctors with the diagnosis and treatment of your child.

A radioactive tracer is given by intravenous injection, usually into the arm or back of the hand. This tracer goes to the bones via the blood supply.

We may/or may not take early pictures. You will then be free to leave the department while the tracer circulates around the body. We will give you a time to return to the department approximately 2 ½ hours after the injection. The scan pictures will take between 30 to 45 minutes to take. During the scan the camera will come close to your child but will not touch them

Does my child need to prepare for the scan?

Please tell your child about the scan.

'Magic cream' is available to make the injection less painful. If you would like this for your child (must be over 1 year old) you must attend 1 hour before the stated appointment time.

We would like him/her to drink more than usual but eat normally.

(We understand that babies will only take what they want.)

On arrival you will be shown into the waiting room where there are toys and books.

We have the story 'Betsy Bunny has a bone scan' which will be discussed with your child.

What about the radiation?

The amount of radiation your child receives is small and similar to that from an x-ray. It will not make your child sleepy or unwell. Pregnant mums should avoid spending long periods of time in close contact with the child for the remainder of the day.

When do we get the results?

Results are sent directly to the doctor who requested the scan, usually within 2 weeks.

Do we need to do anything after the scan?

You should encourage your child to drink more than usual for the rest of the day as this will help to wash the radioactivity out of his/her body. You should encourage good hand hygiene after using the toilet and before eating food.

We recommend that your child does *not* return to school on the day of the scan either between the injection and the scan or after the test.

If you are travelling on holiday in the next month, please take your appointment letter and this information sheet with you.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING OTHER CHILDREN WITH YOU.

