

Octreotide Scan (IN-111)

Introduction

An octreotide scan is a nuclear medicine exam done to help detect and show the location of endocrine cells and tumours. It is performed over a **two-day** period. Occasionally, an additional scan may be required on the third day. You will be informed on the second day if a third scan is necessary.

Preparation

Please fast from midnight the night before each scan.

The injection will not impair your ability to drive a vehicle.

It is important that your bowel is as clear as possible for imaging. It is advisable to take a mild oral laxative (Dulcolax) the day before the scan to aid this. This can be obtained from your local pharmacy.

Pregnant women or children should not attend the appointment with you.

Ensure that you are well hydrated for the scan.

Please inform us if you are on Octreotide or Somatostatin therapy as this may need to be stopped for 24 hours before the first scan.

Women of childbearing age

This scan should be scheduled within 28 days of the commencement of your last menstrual period to avoid inadvertent irradiation of a foetus. If your period is overdue, your appointment may be rearranged.

Scan

Day one:

Fast from midnight the night before. Your first appointment will be early on the first morning. On arrival you will be given the isotope injection into a vein in your arm. You will then have to wait for 4 to 5 hours before your scan is taken. During this waiting period you will be free to leave the hospital if you wish.

Patient Information Leaflet

When you return, it will take approximately 45 minutes to complete your scan. You will be asked to lie on a table whilst the camera moves over your body.

Day two:

Fast from midnight the night before. Your appointment will be early in the morning. You will be asked to lie on a table whilst the camera moves over and around your body. This will take approximately one and a half hours. There is no injection for this scan. The radiographer will inform you if you need to return for a third scan.

Radiation precautions after the scan

Some of the isotope will remain in your body for approximately 48 hours after your scan is complete. To minimise the radiation dose to yourself and others, you should take the following precautions during this period:

1. Drink plenty of fluids and empty your bladder as frequently as possible. When using the toilet you should avoid spills, flush the toilet twice and wash your hands thoroughly. You should sit on the toilet when passing urine.
2. If possible, avoid close contact with pregnant women, infants and children for 48 hours after your injection.
3. If you are a nursing mother express and discard breast milk for 48 hours after your injection. You may resume normal breast-feeding after this time.
4. You should postpone any other medical tests or procedures for 48 hours after the injection where possible.

Medical radiation: risks v benefits

We are all exposed to natural background radiation every day. Medical exposures give a small additional dose on top of natural radiation.

The amount of radiation received during a nuclear medicine procedure is low, resulting in the equivalent of approximately a few months to two year's background radiation.

Patient Information Leaflet

The only effect on the patient that is known to be possible at these low doses is a very slight increase in the chance of cancer occurring many years or decades after the exposure.

As long as it is clearly necessary to help make the correct diagnosis and treatment decision, the benefits of detection, diagnosis and treatment resulting from the nuclear medicine examination should outweigh these small radiation risks.