

Patient Information Leaflet

SeHCAT Scan (Se-75)

Introduction

A SeHCAT scan is a nuclear medicine exam done to assess the absorption of bile acid in your intestines. It is performed on **two separate days**, one week apart.

Preparation

Please fast for 2 hours before each scan.

Inform us of any medications you are taking as some may need to be stopped for the scan.

Inform us if you have a colonoscopy appointment to attend.

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

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

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 for 2 hours prior to the scan. Your first appointment will be early on the first morning. On arrival you will be given a SeHCAT capsule to swallow with some water. You will then have to wait for 3 hours before your scan is taken. During this waiting period you will be free to leave the hospital if you wish.

When you return, you will be asked to lie on the scanner table and the camera will be positioned over your abdomen. It will take approximately 10 minutes to complete your scan.

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Day Two (7 days after day one):

Fast for 2 hours prior to the scan. Your appointment will be early in the morning. You will be asked to lie on the scanner table and the camera will be positioned over your abdomen. It will take approximately 10 minutes to complete your scan.

Radiation precautions after the scan

You receive a small radiation dose from the radioactivity in the capsule when having a SeHCAT scan. The radiation dose to other people around you however is very low and you do not need to stay away from others following this scan.

Please inform us if you are breastfeeding and we can advise you whether you will need to stop for any amount of time.

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.

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.