Having a MUGA heart scan

Department of Nuclear Medicine

Information for Patients

Last reviewed: June 2024
Next review: June 2027
Leaflet number: 945 Version: 4

What is a MUGA heart scan?

MUGA stands for multiple gated acquisition. This is a scan of your heart that is taken in time with your heart beat. This will tell us how well your heart is pumping blood around your body.

You must tell us if:

- you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant, or have just missed a period.
- you are breastfeeding. This is because radioactive substances can come out in breast milk. You may be advised to stop breastfeeding for a short time.
- you have any incontinence problems. This is because radioactive substances will be present in your pee (urine). You may need special instructions because of this.
- you have problems with your memory or learning difficulties.
- you need an interpreter (please tell us at least 3 days before your appointment).
- If you are arriving by ambulance you must call the department as soon as possible

If you cannot attend your appointment please call 0116 258 5627 to rearrange at least 3 days before. This is so that we can try to offer your appointment to someone else.

How do I prepare for the scan?

Please call the department if you are taking any of the following medications: heparin, beta blockers, antibiotics, digitalis related compounds, dextran, penicillin or if you have had a CT scan within the last 2 weeks.

You may eat and drink normally before the appointment.

What happens during the scan?

- You will be taken into a room. We will explain the procedure to you. You may ask any questions that you have.
- We will give you 2 separate injections for this scan. They are no more painful than a blood test.
- The first injection is used to prepare your blood. You will feel no ill-effects from this injection.
- The second injection is given about 20 minutes later, in a different vein. This injection has a small amount of radiation so that the camera can see your heart.
- You will then have your pictures taken about 10 minutes later, using a gamma camera. You will be asked to lie still on a bed and may remain dressed.
- We will connect you to an ECG machine so we can record your heart beat. This gives us important information for the scan. In order to get good quality pictures the gamma camera will be quite close to you. You will not be left alone in the room.

What happens after the scan?

You will be radioactive after you have had your injection for the next 24 hours. To minimise any risk to yourself and others we ask you to:

- drink plenty of extra fluids
- flush the toilet well after use (men should sit down when going for a pee)
- wash your hands thoroughly each time you use the toilet
- avoid long contact (more than 30 minutes) with anyone who is or maybe pregnant, small children and babies
- usually there is no problem in returning to work, however please ask staff for advice if you work with radiation or in the photographic industry

Are there any risks?

It is very unlikely that you will have any side effects from the radioactive injection. There is a small risk linked with the radiation you receive by having this scan.

Ionising radiation can cause cell damage that may, after many years or decades, turn cancerous. We are all at risk of developing cancer during our lifetime. The normal risk is that this will happen to about 50% of people at some point in their life.

The dose of radiation you will get from this test is very small. It is the same dose you would get from the environment in about 1.7 years. Having this test will add only a very small chance of this happening to you. In fact, the risks from missing a serious disorder by not having this test may be considerably greater.

How will I get my results?

Your scan will be looked at by a radiologist and the results passed on to your consultant. They will be discussed with you at your next outpatient appointment.

Useful information

Please do not bring children with you to your appointment. Radiation is more hazardous for children and pregnant women than for adults, so please do not to bring them into the Nuclear Medicine Department unless they are coming for a scan.

Directions to Nuclear Medicine

- Leicester Royal Infirmary – Level 0, Sandringham Building (behind the multi-storey car park).
- Glenfield Hospital – the department is best reached via the east entrance.

Contact details

For specific information about your test, please contact (answering machine checked during office hours):

Leicester Royal Infirmary:	0116 258 5627
Glenfield Hospital:	0116 258 3850
Leicester Radiopharmacy Service:	0116 258 5579

If you have a question about your medical condition please contact your GP or the doctor who made your referral.

Further information

Useful websites: www.bnms.org.uk www.radiologyinfo.org www.patient.co.uk

www.informed-scan.com/

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہِ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔

على هذه المعلومات بلغةٍ أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

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Previous reference: PAT003-0715 / PAT003-1107