

What happens on the day?

Your appointment is on:

at

with

Contact us on

A scan of your brain will be taken to give your doctor information about how it is functioning. This is helpful for making decisions about your condition and about the appropriate treatment for you. Ask the Nuclear Medicine Department if you have any questions regarding this procedure.

Tell the imaging department ...

...if you are taking any medicines in case there is a chance of interactions or interference with the scan. Medications for Parkinson's disease, such as levodopa, do not usually need to be stopped.

...if there's a chance you may be pregnant or if you are breast-feeding.

...if you are allergic to the active substance of the injection (ioflupane) or its excipients

...if you have renal or hepatic disease

Before the scan, you will be given some iodine rich tablets or liquid to make sure radioactivity doesn't enter in your thyroid. It is important that you take them as instructed.

To perform the scan, a small dose of a radioactively labelled chemical is injected into your body. The amount of radioactivity is low and will be naturally lost from your body within a short time.

Having the scan

You will be given an injection containing radio tracer, usually into a vein in your arm. The actual scanning will take place 3 to 6 hours after the injection. Cameras (called gamma cameras) will be placed close to your head, as shown in the pictures. If you feel claustrophobic please let your doctor know. The scan usually takes between 30 and 45 minutes to perform depending on the type of camera used.

It's best if you can relax and remain still during the scanning.

You will not need to remove your clothing, and it's recommended that you wear something comfortable.

After the scan

You are recommended to drink plenty of fluids to help speed up removal of medicine from your body.

Like all medicines, there may be some side effects. A common side effect associated with the scan is headache. Uncommon side effects include but are not limited to nausea, dizziness, dry mouth, vertigo.

It's important that you tell the imaging department if you feel at all unwell.

Ask your doctor for the "Package Leaflet - Information for the User" if you have any questions about your scan.

Reporting of side effects: If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in the package leaflet. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>.

