



**Royal Hospital
Nuclear Medicine Department**

Parathyroid Scan

Patient Information sheet

How Nuclear Medicine Works?

Nuclear Medicine exams can help to assess how well your organs are working. Hence, it is different from other areas of radiology, which create images of the body anatomy.

During a nuclear medicine procedure, you will receive an injection of a radioactive material called a radiopharmaceutical. When the radiopharmaceutical reaches the right area, a special machine called a gamma camera will take pictures of the area of interest.

What is Parathyroid Scan?

A parathyroid scan is a test that determines the function and health of the parathyroid gland which regulates calcium uptake in the body. It is done when the parathyroid appears to be overactive, or if a tumor is suspected.

What is involved in this test?

- A technologist will ask you to lie on a scanning bed and then a small amount of radiopharmaceutical is injected into a vein in your arm.
- After 10 minutes of lying down on the scanning bed, the first set of pictures is taken. This part of the procedure lasts about 30 minutes.
- You will be then asked to wait for 2 hours after which you will be taken back into the same room for more pictures to be taken. This part takes about 1 hour.

What happens after the test?

- You may resume your normal activities once the examination is complete.
- The report will be sent to your doctor.
- There are no known side effects from the test.

Preparation

There is no preparation for this test

For female patients

- If you are pregnant, please tell the technologist before you are injected with the radioactive tracer.
- Please consult your technologist if you are breastfeeding for further instructions.

Your Parathyroid Scan has been scheduled for _____ at _____

If you have any questions or concerns about the test, or if you need to cancel or reschedule your appointment, please contact the Nuclear Medicine Department at 24627069

Nuclear Medicine Department is located on the Ground floor in the Oncology Centre

Please check in with nuclear medicine reception 15 minutes before your appointment.

