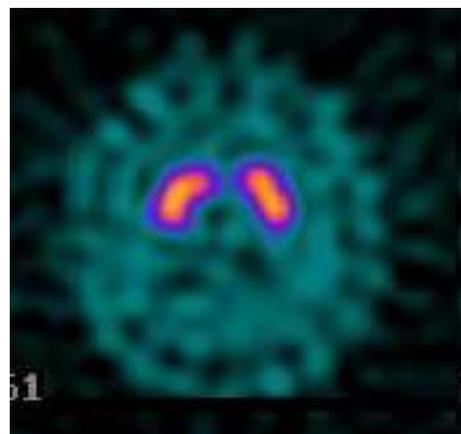


Nuclear Medicine DaTSCAN

Your visit to the
Medical Physics Department
Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital



Name: _____

Who to contact and how: _____

Notes: _____

**Diana, Princess of Wales
Hospital**
Scartho Road
Grimsby
DN33 2BA
03033 306999
www.nlg.nhs.uk

**Scunthorpe General
Hospital**
Cliff Gardens
Scunthorpe
DN15 7BH
03033 306999
www.nlg.nhs.uk

**Goole & District
Hospital**
Woodland Avenue
Goole
DN14 6RX
03033 306999
www.nlg.nhs.uk

Information for patients

What is a Nuclear Medicine DaTSCAN ?

DaT stands for dopamine active transporter. Dopamine is a chemical which is important in areas of the brain that help control movement. A DaTSCAN is a nuclear medicine test that looks at the function of dopamine transporters in your brain. A special device, called a gamma camera, will take pictures of the brain (called a single-photon emission computed tomography [SPECT] scan). These pictures and a report will be sent to your doctor, to help him/her determine if you are suffering from a parkinsonian syndrome.

For patients with dementia, the DaTSCAN can help separate Alzheimer's disease from a dementia called Lewy Body disease. This has important implications in determining which medications can be safely used to treat the dementia.

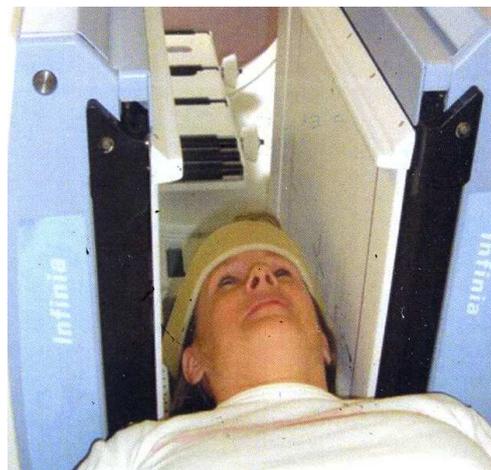
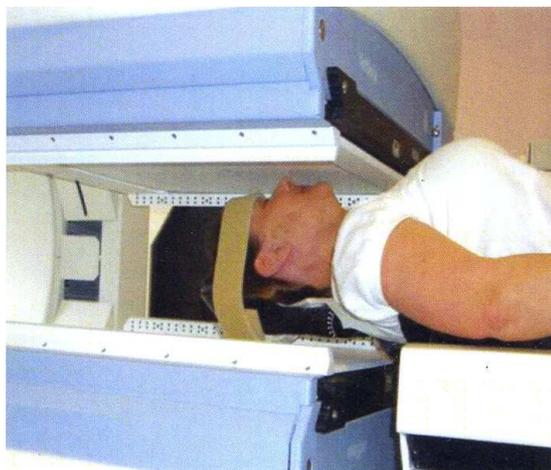
Having the Scan

You will be given an injection of iofupane, usually into a vein in your arm. The actual scanning will take place 3 to 6 hours after the injection. During this interval, you are free to leave the department / hospital and can eat / drink normally. You will be given the exact time of your scan when you have the injection.

Cameras (called gamma cameras) will be placed close to your head, as shown in the pictures, but you should not feel claustrophobic.

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 scan.

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



Information for patients

Do I need to take any special precautions after the scan?

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

Like all medicines, there may be some side-effects though they are rare with iofupane - they may include headache, dizziness, increased appetite or a brief 'crawling' feeling over your skin.

It is important that you tell the imaging department if you feel unwell.

Most people do not need to take any special precautions. Individual written instructions will be given to you when you attend.

What happens to the result of the scan?

A report is sent to the doctor who requested the scan rather than to your GP. This is because the doctor who requested your scan will have all the results from other tests and will be able to tell you how the result of your DaTSCAN affects your care.

Any more questions?

The staff in the department want your visit to be as pleasant as possible. If you have any other questions, please ask the staff. You can telephone, or ask before your scan starts.

The departmental telephone number is **03033 304535**.

After the Scan

After the scan is completed, if you have any comments or suggestions, please let us know. We are always trying to improve the department and would welcome your contribution.

Any Comments, Compliments, Concerns or Complaints

If you have any other concerns please talk to your nurse, therapist or doctor. Our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) are available on 03033 306518 (Grimsby, Scunthorpe and Goole). You can also contact nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net

As a Trust we value equality of access to our information and services, therefore alternative formats available on request at nlg-tr.interpreters@nhs.net

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