



**University
Hospitals Sussex**
NHS Foundation Trust

HIDA scan

Department of Nuclear Medicine

Patient information

What is a HIDA scan?

HIDA scan is an examination of the gall bladder and associated ducts around the liver.

Can I have a HIDA scan if I am pregnant?

If there is a possibility that you are pregnant, please inform the department before your appointment, as your appointment may need to be postponed.

Can I have a HIDA scan if I am breastfeeding or chest/bottle-feeding?

Please inform the department before your appointment if you are currently breastfeeding or bottle-feeding your breastmilk to your child, as you may need to stop for a day. If you are currently chestfeeding or bottle-feeding your child formula milk please inform the department before your appointment.

Can I have a HIDA scan if I am on dialysis?

Please inform the department if you are on any form of dialysis, as it may be necessary to co-ordinate your nuclear medicine appointment with your dialysis treatment.

Can I bring someone with me?

Whenever possible, you should attend your appointment alone, unless you need a carer to support any additional needs. If you need a carer, or you provide care for someone else involving close contact, please inform the department before your appointment, as you may need to keep a distance of 1 metre from them for a few hours.

How long will my appointment take?

Please allow three hours for your appointment.

What happens before my appointment?

- Do not eat for four hours before your appointed time (but no longer than 24hrs as this can affect your gallbladder filling).

- Please do not smoke on the day of your scan (or use nicotine in any form) as this can interfere with the quality of the pictures.
- Please bring food that has a high fat content (chocolate, pasty or similar) with you as you will be required to have this during the scan.

Do I need to stop my medication?

It is important you complete and return the enclosed green form. Please list all medication that you are taking including over the counter drugs. Some drugs need to be stopped two days before your appointment.

What will happen at my appointment?

Firstly a cannula will be placed into a vein in your arm or back of the hands.

After this you will be taken into the scan room and positioned onto an imaging bed with a camera placed above your abdomen. Once in position you will have a small amount of radioactive tracer injected through the cannula. This will go to your liver and gallbladder and then will be excreted into the bowel. It emits gamma rays which will be detected by a piece of equipment called a gamma camera.

Immediately after injection, the first set of imaging begins which takes one hour. It is important that you remain as still as possible for your scan.

After the first set of images you will be asked to have something to eat.

Then we will carry out another scan for one hour.

All images will be checked before you leave the department. Occasionally images may be repeated or extra images acquired if necessary.



A HIDA scan

Do I need to undress for the scan?

You do not normally have to undress but we will ask you to remove any heavy or metal objects such as a belt.

What happens after my appointment?

Eat as normal and keep well hydrated.

To protect other people from radiation, plan to keep a distance of at least 1 metre for a few hours. This is long enough for some of the radioactivity to decay and for your body to remove the rest. Brief close contact such as queuing or walking past others is safe. Remember to use good hygiene precautions during this time to prevent contamination.

When will I get my results?

The report will be sent to your referring doctor. They will contact you to discuss the results. If you have any enquiries regarding your results please contact the department where the referral was originally made.

Are there any risks with this procedure?

The radioactive tracer administered will expose you to a small amount of ionising radiation.

The risks from this radiation are very low and the benefits of having the results from the HIDA scan greatly outweigh the risk.

Contact details

Royal Sussex County Hospital (RSCH)

Nuclear Medicine Department **01273 696955 Ext. 64381** or **64382**

Princess Royal Hospital (PRH)

Imaging Department Nuclear Medicine Department **01273 523040**

This leaflet is intended for patients receiving care in Brighton & Hove or Haywards Heath

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