

# RENOGRAM

Your doctor would like you to have a renogram.  
This leaflet will answer some of the questions you may have.

## What is a renogram?

The main job of the kidneys is to get rid of unwanted chemicals from your blood. A renogram gives us pictures showing how quickly the kidneys do this.

You might have heard your doctor mention a 'DTPA scan' or a 'MAG3 scan'. These are two types of renogram. This leaflet applies to both these types of renogram.

## Do I need to prepare for the scan?

Please have plenty to drink in the hour or so before your appointment. If you drink plenty this will give us clearer pictures. Also, please go to the toilet as often as you like. There is no need to have a full bladder for this test.

We have a cooled-water dispenser in the department so you can have more to drink when you arrive. (For babies and toddlers, please bring their favourite drink along with you. We can warm up feeding bottles if you ask us).

You can eat whatever you wish. Food will not interfere with this test.

## What is involved?

A small amount of chemical is injected into a vein in your arm. We then take a series of pictures to see how quickly your kidneys remove this chemical. These pictures take about 30 minutes. During this time you should remain as still as possible but please breathe normally. You can keep your clothes on for the pictures.

It can be difficult for children to keep still. To help them we have a television, video and DVD. Our supply of videos and DVDs is rather small so you may want to bring your own tape or disk. Alternatively you may wish to bring a book to read to your child. Small children can find hospitals frightening. Please talk to them about it a day or two before the scan. Parents can remain with children at all times. Teddies can come as well !

The pictures normally take about 30 minutes. Sometimes your doctor will want us to take some pictures of your kidneys while you are emptying your bladder. If this is the case, the scan will take a bit longer. You will be behind a screen to help maintain privacy.

The injection contains a small amount of radioactivity. If you are pregnant or breast-feeding please 'phone to let us know. The radioactivity will disappear by itself soon after the scan is finished.

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### **If I am taking tablets or other drugs, do I need to stop taking them?**

Unless your doctor tells you otherwise, please continue to take any medication you have been prescribed.

### **Will it hurt?**

Only the 'pinprick' of the injection needle may hurt a bit. You may have had a blood test in the past. This is much the same.

With babies and children, we use an anaesthetic cream on the injection site. This makes the injection easier for your child. It takes an hour for the cream to work, so please bring plenty to keep your child occupied.

### **Is the radiation dangerous?**

The radioactivity will disappear by itself soon after the scan is finished (nearly all of it disappears within one day, any remaining traces disappear within one week). The amount of radiation is similar to that from an x-ray examination. For babies and small children we use even smaller amounts of radiation.

### **Do I need to do anything after the scan?**

Please drink more than usual for the rest of the day. This is to help wash the radioactivity out of your body more quickly. The rest will disappear naturally.

If you are travelling abroad in the seven days after your scan, please ask us for further advice. Ports and airports have very sensitive radiation detectors which may pick up tiny amounts of radioactivity remaining after your scan. We will give you a letter that you can show to customs officials at ports or airports.

### **What happens to the results of the scan?**

A doctor will examine the pictures. This is normally done at the end of the day or early the next day. A report is then sent to the doctor who asked us to do the scan.

### **Is there anything I should tell the staff before the scan?**

Yes, if you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant, please 'phone us to let us know. Also, please telephone us if you are breast-feeding.

### **Any more questions?**

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

**Our telephone number is  
Southend (01702) 385142**