



Mount Alvernia Hospital

BONE SCAN

Your doctor has asked us to carry out a Bone Scan on you.

Appointment details

Patient Name

Date of appointment:

Time of appointment:

Injection Time:

Scan time:

Every effort will be made to keep to this time, but due to the nature of the investigations, delay can occur for which we apologise in advance.

If you are unable to keep your appointment, please inform us at least 48 hours in advance of your scan, as there may be a cancellation fee for any appointments missed. Please telephone 01483 442696, so an alternative appointment can be arranged for you.

What does the Bone Scan involve?

This safe and simple test involves an injection of a small amount of radioactive tracer into a vein in your arm or the back of your hand. We may take a scan a few minutes after the injection which will last 30 minutes. You will be asked to return approximately 2.5- 4 hours later for scans which can take up to 90 minutes.

The radioactive tracer is used to help make a diagnosis. When injected it circulates in the blood and temporarily collects in a particular organ of the body (in this case your bones). It is then detected from outside the body using a special camera, and a picture, known as a scan, will be taken. This gives the physician valuable information about the structure and function of that organ.

Preparation required for the Bone Scan

You may eat, drink and take your medication as normal. In between the injection and the scan you will be required to drink 2 pints (about one litre) of liquid, and to empty your bladder frequently. This will flush out any excess radioactivity from the body and make the pictures clearer.

Can I bring somebody with me?

Due to Covid'19 we ask you to not bring any relatives or friends with you, as we want less people coming to hospital. If in any case someone is accompanying you, please can they wait in car.

Also it is very important that you do not bring children or pregnant friends with you because Bone scan uses radiation and children and pregnant women are particularly susceptible to radiation.



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Special Warnings

You may feel some discomfort from the pinprick of the injection. Side effects from the injection are extremely rare.

A very small amount of radioactivity is injected into your body. The risk this involves is very small and your physician will not consider carrying out the investigation unless he believes that the risk is outweighed by the potential benefit of the study.

Further guidance has been published by Public Health England.

Visit website- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ionising-radiation-from-medical-imaging-examinations-safety-advice>

Do I need to do anything after the scan?

You may eat and take your medication as normal. For the next 6 hours, the more fluid you drink and empty your bladder the better, as radioactivity is passed out in the urine

Also, it is advised that for 12 hours following the radiopharmaceutical injection, you should avoid prolonged close contact with pregnant women, babies and children.

Further information is available should you require it.

Information for ladies

If you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant, we need to know before the injection of radioactivity.

In addition, if you are currently breastfeeding, again please inform the staff, as for certain procedures you may have to discontinue breast feeding for a certain period.

For further information please contact us at the Imaging Department on 01483 442696

