



Mount Alvernia Hospital

DAT BRAIN SCAN

Your doctor has asked us to carry out a DAT Brain Scan

Appointment details

Patient name:

Date of appointment:

Time of appointment:

Collection of Potassium Iodide capsules:

DaTSCAN Injection time:

Scan time:

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

If you are unable to keep your appointment, please inform us at least 2 working days in advance of your scan, as there may be a cancellation fee of £630.00 which covers the cost of the DaTSCAN injection for any appointments missed. Please telephone 01483 442696, so an alternative appointment can be arranged for you.

What does the DAT Brain 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. You will be asked to return approximately 3 hours later for another scan this will last 30 – 45 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 brain). 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 DAT Brain Scan

Please let us have a full list of drugs you are taking as certain drugs may interfere with the uptake of the DAT radioactive tracer. **Also let us know if you have any allergies to iodine.**

In order to prevent the uptake of free radioactivity by your thyroid gland, it will be necessary for you to take Potassium Iodide tablets. As discussed at the time of booking this appointment you will be asked to sign a form. **Please take 2 capsules on the day of your scan, 1 -2 hours before the injection.**

Otherwise you may eat and drink normally.



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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 DaTSCAN scan uses radiation and children and pregnant women are particularly susceptible to radiation.

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