



Mount Alvernia Hospital

MUGA HEART SCAN

Your doctor has asked us to carry out a MUGA Heart Scan

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, delays 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 MUGA Heart Scan involve?

For this safe and simple test we will give you two injections, into a vein situated in your arm or the back of your hand. These are:

1. A stannous dose to activate your red blood cells.
2. A radioactive tracer 20 – 30 minutes later. 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 the red cells in your heart). 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 function of the heart. The scan will last approximately 20 minutes.

Preparation required for the MUGA Heart Scan

Please let us know well in advance if you are taking any minerals, especially minerals containing iron or iron supplements. These may interfere with the test and we may ask you to stop taking them. You may drink a cup of tea, coffee or chocolate up to 2 hours before your appointment, and then no caffeine until the scan is completed. Please drink water and empty your bladder as required. You may eat and take your other medication as normal.

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 the MUGA 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 injections. Side effects from the injections 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 Centre on 01483 442696