The gamma camera will be positioned above you and you must remain very still for about 30 minutes while images are taken. The scanner will be very close to your head, but will not touch your head.

Will it be uncomfortable?

No. Apart from the injection, you will not feel anything.

How long will it take?

It takes 3-6 hours while the radiopharmaceutical is absorbed into the brain. The scanning process usually takes 30-45 minutes. Unless you prefer to stay during the gap of 3 hours, your time in the department will be approximately one hour in total.

Can I listen to music while I have my scan?

The Technologist will ask you whether you would like to listen to music during your scan. You may bring in a CD or select music from our selection.

Are there any after-effects?

No, the injection causes no side-effects, nor will you feel sleepy. You can drive home afterwards and do your normal activities.

In addition to mothers who are breastfeeding, parents with young children should notify the radiographer, who will explain that it is advisable not to have prolonged close contact with them for the rest of the day. This is to avoid them being exposed to unnecessary radiation.

When will you get the results?

A Nuclear Medicine Specialist Consultant will write a report within 7 days of your scan and the results will usually be sent directly to your referring healthcare professional.

Please remember

The radiopharmaceutical required for this examination is ordered especially for you. If you cannot attend your appointment, please let the department know as soon as possible, so that we can use it for someone else.

We hope that this leaflet has answered your questions, but remember that this is only a starting point for discussion about your treatment with the doctors looking after you. Make sure you are satisfied that you have received enough information about the procedure.

If you cannot make your appointment, please telephone us at your earliest convenience.

Tel: 020 3137 8287

For further information please visit
www.trinitymedicalimaging.co.uk

How to get here

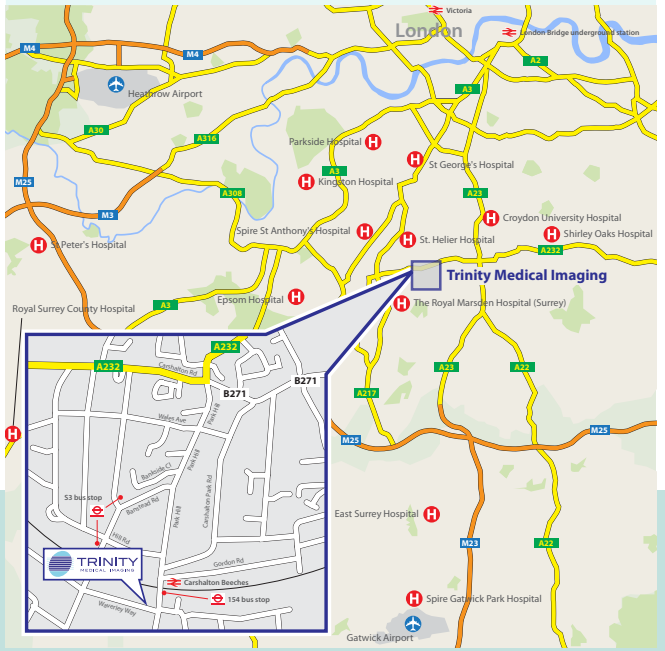
Opening Times

Monday to Friday	8:30am	–	18:00pm
Saturday	9:30am	–	18:00pm
Sunday	10:30am	–	16:00pm

Tel : 020 3137 2155
Fax : 020 3137 2156
Email : info@trinitymedicalimaging.co.uk

www.trinitymedicalimaging.co.uk

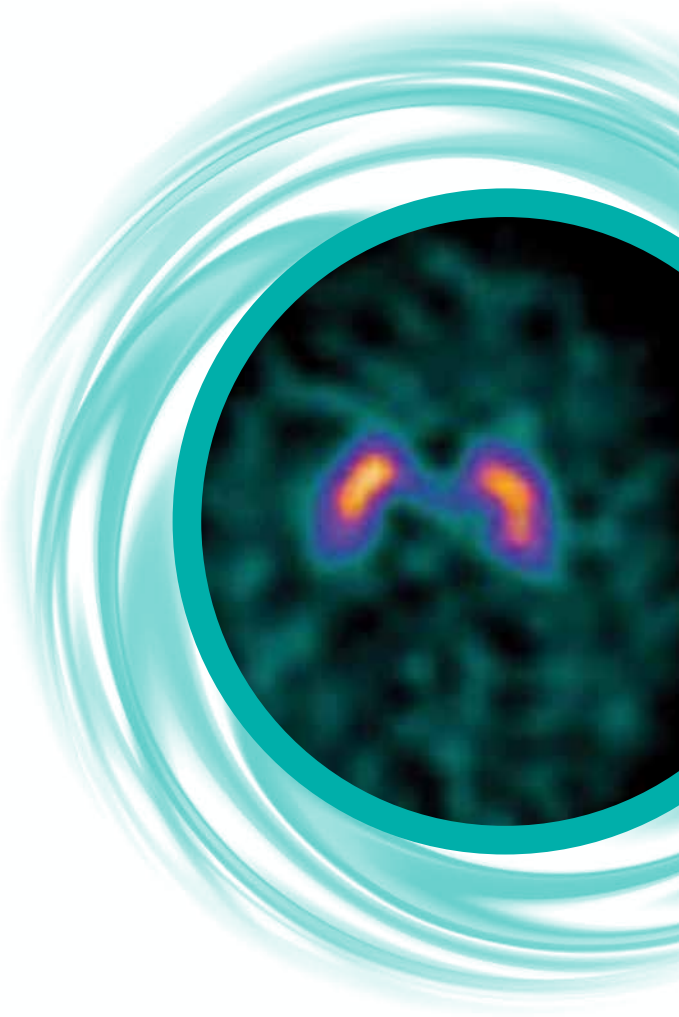
Trinity Medical Imaging
TMI House
29 Waverley Way
Carshalton Beeches
Surrey SM5 3LQ



Information for patients having a DaTscan™

Trinity Medical Imaging

Our patients, our priority



TRINITY® MEDICAL IMAGING

Who Are We?

Trinity Medical Imaging is one of the foremost providers of private nuclear medicine imaging in London and Surrey. We work with some of the finest nuclear medicine consultants from a wide variety of specialist fields, attracted from London's major teaching hospitals.

At Trinity Medical Imaging we specialize in hybrid imaging with SPECT-CT, and our facility leads the way for SPECT-CT services in the area.

This leaflet tells you about having a DaTSCAN. It is also known as an Iodine-123 Ioflupane scan. It explains the procedure and what the risks are. If you have any questions about the procedure, please speak to any member of the team at Trinity Medical Imaging and we will do our best to help you.

What is nuclear medicine?

Nuclear medicine uses radioactive isotopes in the form of radiopharmaceuticals to produce images of different parts of the body. These radiopharmaceuticals emit gamma rays, which are like X-rays. The radiation does not remain for very long, as the isotope decays within a few hours.

The isotopes are usually injected into a vein, but may sometimes be swallowed or inhaled. The gamma rays from the isotope are detected by a special camera called a gamma camera. Unlike X-rays, nuclear medicine can also be used to show how an organ is functioning, as well as what it looks like.

What is DaTscan?

DaTSCAN is a drug that is injected into the bloodstream to assess dopamine containing neurons, which are involved in controlling movement. At Trinity Medical Imaging, we use a gamma camera to take pictures of your brain. By analysing the images, our imaging specialist, in consultation with your doctor, can help determine whether the symptoms you are experiencing are the result of a Parkinsonian syndrome. Parkinsonian syndromes occur when certain neurons of the brain undergo degeneration. The DaTSCAN study is primarily designed to differentiate Parkinsonian syndrome from a relatively benign condition called essential tremor.

DaTSCAN is also used to investigate certain forms of memory loss. It can be used to differentiate Lewy Body dementia from other forms of dementia such as vascular dementia or Alzheimer's disease.

Are there are any risks?

As the gamma rays are like X-rays, there are small risks associated with being exposed to radiation. However, the radiation decays away over a few hours and the amount of radiation used in medical imaging is very low. This is comparable to the natural radiation we all receive from the environment over about 2 years. In fact, the risks from missing a disorder by not having a scan may be considerably greater than the risks of the radiation. If you are concerned about the risks of the radiation, please speak to a member of our team.

Are you required to make any special preparations?

Please also inform us if you have an **allergy or sensitivity to iodine.**

If you are taking drugs for the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), antipsychotics, antidepressants, cocaine, weight-loss medications or smoking-cessation medications, please inform us when making your appointment.

You may eat and drink normally. If you leave the department, you do not need to take any special precautions, but if you stay in the department then you should use the special toilet for nuclear medicine patients. The technologist will show you where the toilet in the department is.

If you are pregnant or breastfeeding

If you are pregnant, or think you may be pregnant, you must inform the department before attending, and certainly before the radiopharmaceutical is administered.

If you are breastfeeding, please inform the department before attending and you will be advised as to whether you will need to take any precautions.

Can you bring a relative/friend?

Yes, you can, but for safety reasons, they may not be allowed to accompany you into the examination room, except in very special circumstances. Please do not bring children with you as they will potentially be exposed to radiation from other patients.

Arriving for your appointment

When you arrive for your appointment, please inform the receptionist, after which you will be shown where to wait until met by our technologist.

The technologist will explain the procedure and answer any questions you may have. You may be asked some questions about your health and previous examination including this one.

You will be given tablets to take about one hour before your injection. This is to block the radioactivity going to your thyroid gland, which can be sensitive to the iodine in the DaTSCAN preparation.

The technologist will then give you the injection of radiopharmaceutical preparation into a vein (generally the one near your elbow) after 1 hour from taking the tablets. This is just like having blood taken.

The brain scan is done at least 3 hours later, to allow the tracer to be absorbed by the brain, during which time you may leave the department.

What happens during the scan?

The DaTSCAN imaging takes approximately 45 minutes. For the imaging test, you will be asked to lie on a table and a technologist will position your head in a headrest. A flexible restraint may be placed around your head to help you not to move your head during the scan.

The gamma camera will be positioned above your head and you must remain very still for about 30 minutes while images are taken. The scanner will be very close to your head and rotate around your head, but will not touch you at any time during scan.

The Technologist will be in the control room and watch over you from the glass window during the scan.