

Are there any after-effects?

The radiopharmaceutical causes no side-effects, nor will you feel drowsy. You can drive home afterwards and go about your normal activities.

In addition to mothers who are breastfeeding, parents with young children should notify the technologist, 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?

The scan will be examined after your visit and a written report on the findings will be sent to your referring doctor within 48 hours.

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

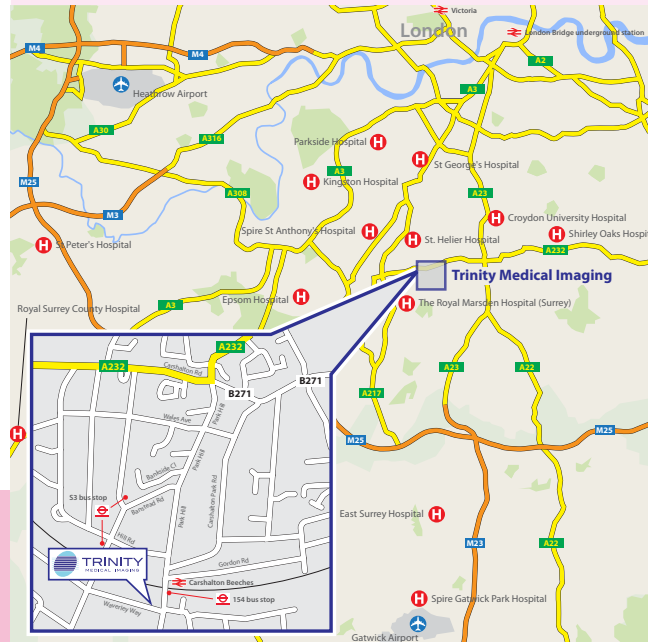
Opening Times

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

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TMI-PIGBSV1

Information for patients having a nuclear medicine GI bleed scan

Trinity Medical Imaging

Our patients, our priority



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.

The leaflet tells you about having a nuclear medicine GI (gastrointestinal bleed) scan. It explains what is involved and what the possible risks are. It is not meant to replace informed discussion between you and your doctor, but can act as a starting point for such discussions. 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 a nuclear medicine GI bleed scan?

Your doctor may recommend a GI Bleeding Scan to help locate the sites of either a gastrointestinal or non-gastrointestinal bleeds, which include the stomach and small and large intestines.

In a Gastrointestinal (GI) Bleeding Scan a small amount of a radiopharmaceutical will be injected into a vein. Pictures of your abdomen will start immediately, lasting

for approximately one hour or longer, looking for an area of bleeding in the intestinal tract.

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 one year. In fact, the risks from missing a disorder by not having the study may be 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.

Is there any special preparation for the scan?

You will need to fast for 6 hours before the scan.

When you make your appointment, you will be asked what medication you are currently taking, and we may ask you to stop certain medicines before the scan.

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. You may be advised to avoid breastfeeding for a few hours afterwards and you may need to express milk before your scan.

Can you bring a relative/friend?

Yes you can, but for reasons of safety, they may not be able 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 go to the receptionist, after which you will be shown where to wait until collected by a technologist.

The technologist will explain the procedure, and you can ask any questions. You may be asked some questions about your health, or whether you have had this examination before. You do not need to undress but you should remove any jewellery and metallic objects such as keys, coins or buckles.

What happens during the scan?

You will be taken to the examination room and made comfortable lying down on the examination couch. The technologist will give you an injection of a pre-treatment medicine and the radiopharmaceutical into a vein in the arm.

The technologist will position the gamma camera over your abdomen, and it will remain still, continuously taking pictures of your intestines. The scan typically lasts one hour, and it is important that you lie still during this scan.

Sometimes, your technologist may need to perform another view where the camera moves around you in a circular motion. This is called a SPECT scan. This can be combined with a CT or CAT scan and is then called a SPECT-CT scan. Your technologist will tell you if this is going to happen.

Will it be uncomfortable?

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

How long will it take?

The scan lasts up to one hour, but occasionally your technologist may need to take further delayed pictures.

Can I listen to music or watch a movie while I have my scan?

Your technologist will ask you whether you would like to listen to music or watch a movie during your scan. You may bring in a CD or DVD, or select music from our selection.