

In addition to mothers who are breastfeeding, mothers 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 unnecessary radiation exposure to them.

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 7 days.

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

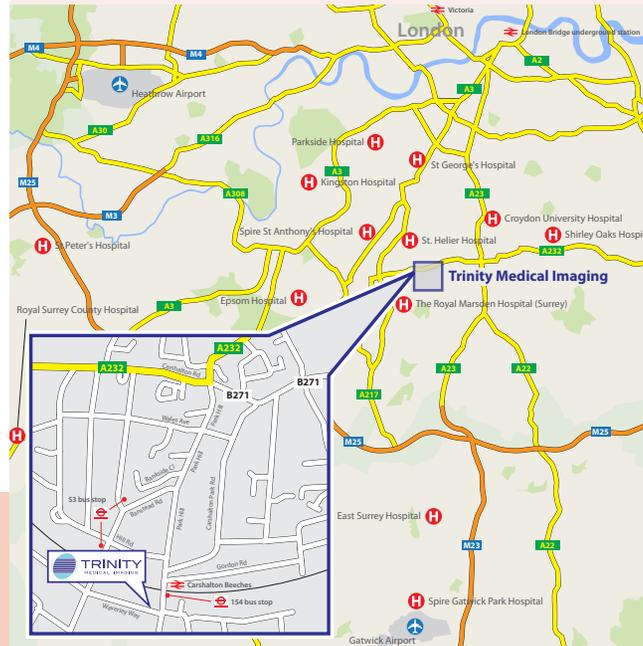
Opening Times

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

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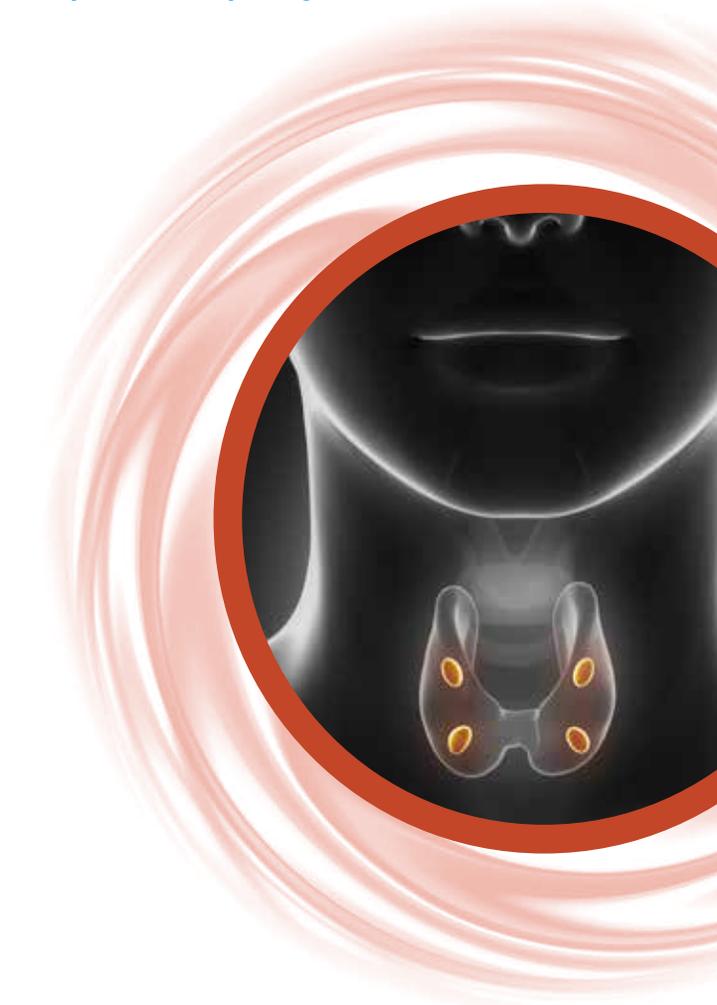


TMI-PIGBSV1

Information for patients having a nuclear medicine parathyroid (sestamibi) 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 parathyroid (or sestamibi) 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 is the use of radioactive isotopes in the form of radiopharmaceuticals to produce an image 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 isotope is usually injected into a vein, but may sometimes be swallowed or inhaled. Radiation from the isotope is then 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 parathyroid scan?

A parathyroid scan is used in nuclear medicine to look at possible problems involving the parathyroid gland(s). The parathyroid consists of four small glands lying close to or embedded in the back surface of the thyroid gland, which is situated in the front of your neck.

The parathyroid scan uses sestamibi (or MIBI for short), which is a very safe liquid radioactive compound that is injected

into the body and absorbed by the overactive parathyroid but not by the healthy ones. A hyperactive gland is picked up by the scan on the images taken by the gamma camera.

Are there 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 two years. In fact, the benefits of diagnosis by scan outweigh 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?

There is no special preparation necessary prior to the scan. You may eat and drink as normal. You should take any medicines you need as usual. If you leave the department, you do not need to take any special precautions, but if you stay then you should use the special toilet for nuclear medicine patients. Your 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. 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 inform the receptionist, after which you will be shown where to wait until met 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 either sitting or lying down. The technologist will inject the MIBI solution into a vein in your arm and then position the gamma camera over your neck and chest. During the scan the gamma camera will rotate around your neck and chest, taking images of your parathyroid glands.

Once the pictures are completed you will be asked to return in 2-3 hours for further pictures of your neck and chest. No further injections are given for the second session. The second scan will be identical to the first, but we will also perform a CT (or CAT scan) of your neck and chest. When this happens, the table will move in and out, but otherwise you won't feel anything. Your technologist will explain when this is happening.

Will it be uncomfortable?

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

How long will it take?

The scanning process usually takes about 30 minutes, and your total time in the department should be about one hour.

Can I listen to music while I have my scan?

Your 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 side-effects?

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