

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?

No, there are no side effects from the SeHCAT. You can drive home afterwards and carry on your normal activities.

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

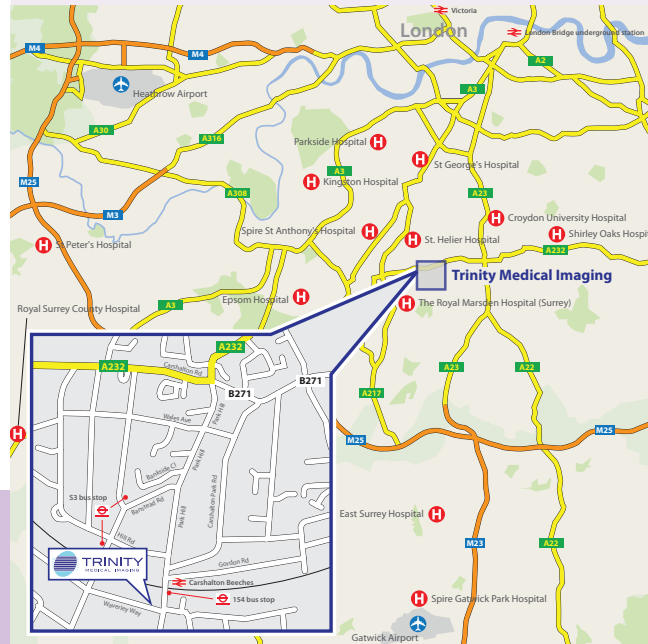
Opening Times

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

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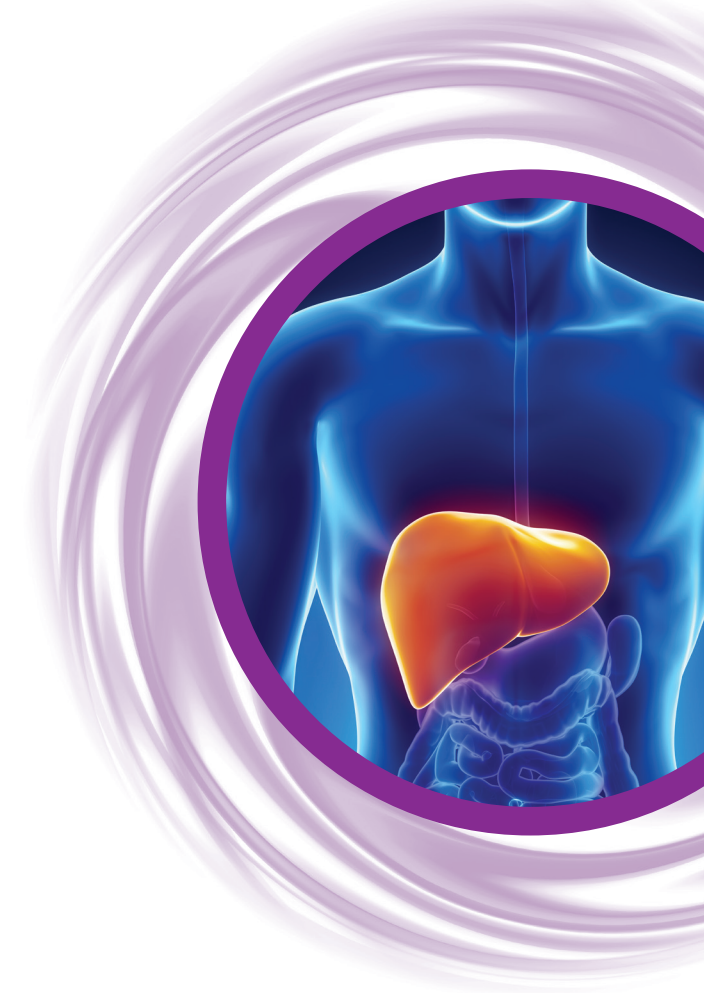


TMI-PISHS

Information for patients having an SeHCAT study

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 SeHCAT study. It explains what is involved and what the possible risks are. If you have any questions about the procedure please ask 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 SeHCAT study?

A SeHCAT study is the gold standard investigation for patients with suspected bile acid malabsorption. Patients are referred for a SeHCAT study if they have diarrhoea heavy IBS, fat induced diarrhoea, diarrhoea after gallbladder or small bowel surgery or diarrhoea after abdominal radiotherapy. SeHCAT works by allowing us to measure how well your small bowel reabsorbs the bile salts that are secreted by the liver. It consists of two scans one week apart.

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 dose from a SeHCAT is very low. This is comparable to the natural radiation we all receive from the environment over about 1 month. 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?

If you are taking any of the following medication, please stop it **one day before** and **for at least seven days after** your first appointment.

Cholestyramine (Sequestran), Colestipol, Colesevelam, Neostigmine, Loperamide, Metoclopramide, Cisapride or Bethanol

You should not have anything to eat or drink for 4 hours before your first appointment.

It is important that you do not have any colonoscopy or endoscopy appointments within the week after the first day of 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 inform the receptionist, after which you will be shown where to wait until met by our 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.

The technologist will give you a capsule of the SeHCAT preparation to swallow. The capsule takes up to three hours to work its way to your small bowel. You are free to leave the department during this time.

What happens during the scan?

When you arrive again after three hours, you will be taken to the scanner room and made comfortable lying on the couch. You do not need to undress but please remove any jewellery or metallic objects such as keys, coins, or buckles. The technologist will position the gamma camera over your abdomen and ask you to lie still. The camera will take images of your body for 15 minutes. You can breathe normally throughout. After this you will be asked to turn onto your front, and further images will be taken for 15 minutes.

The technologist will remain in the control room and watch you through the glass screen in the examination room.

You will need to reattend for another set of scans after one week. You do not need to swallow the capsule again before this second appointment.

Will it be uncomfortable?

No, you will not feel anything.

How long will it take?

The scanning process usually takes about 30 minutes, but you will need to spend approximately 4 hours with us on your first appointment and one hour on your second appointment a week later.