

Are there any after-effects?

No, the injection causes no side-effects, nor will you feel sleepy. You can drive home afterwards and carry on 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 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.

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

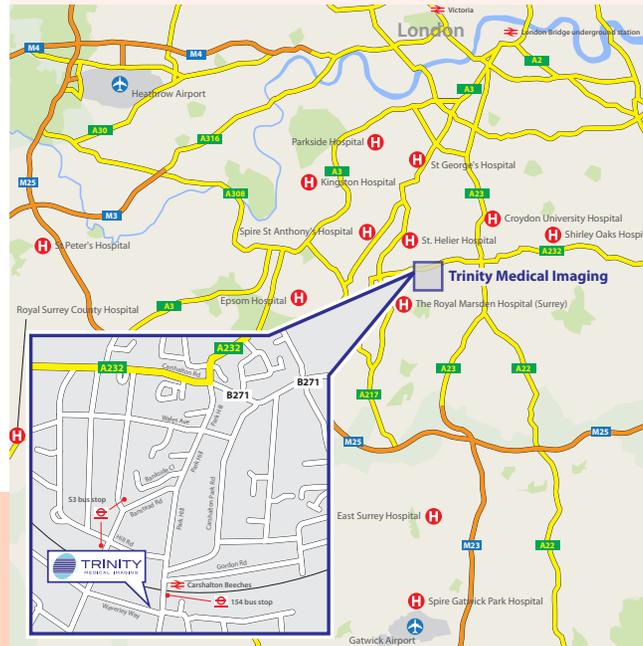
Opening Times

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



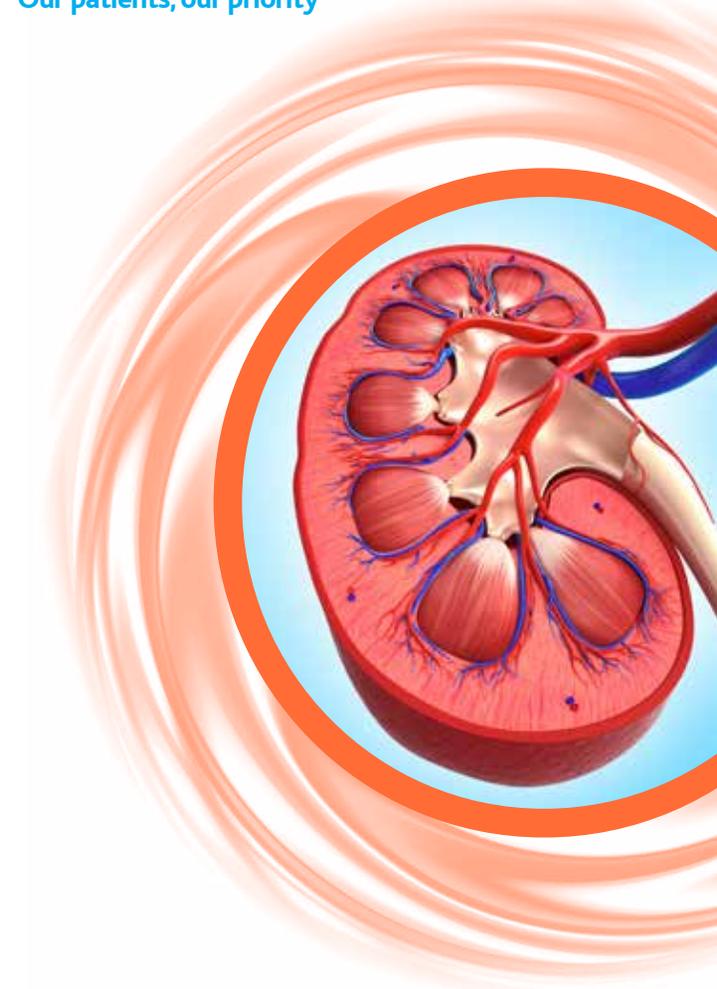
TMI-PIPIKV1

Information for patients having an isotope kidney (renal) scan

(also known as a DMSA 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 an isotope kidney (renal) scan. It is also known as a DMSA 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 an isotope kidney (renal) scan?

The isotope kidney (renal) scan involves an injection into a vein in the arm of a small quantity of radiopharmaceutical. This goes around in the bloodstream, and is taken up by the kidneys. The gamma camera detects the radiation coming from the kidneys and thus produces their image.

What does DMSA actually stand for?

It is dimercaptosuccinic acid. This is the substance that the tracer, technetium 99m, is attached to and is being taken up by the kidneys.

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 6 months. In fact, the benefits of diagnosis from the 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.

Are you required to make any special preparations?

No, you may eat and drink normally and 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 in the department 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 safety reasons, 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 met by a technologist.

The technologist will explain the procedure and you can ask any questions you have. You may be asked some questions about your health, or whether you have had this examination before.

The technologist will then give you the injection of radiopharmaceutical preparation into a vein in your hand or arm. This is just like having blood taken.

There is then a two- to three-hour wait to allow the tracer to be absorbed by the kidneys, during which time you may leave the department.

What happens during the scan?

You do not need to undress but you should remove any jewellery and metallic objects such as keys, coins or buckles. You will be taken to the examination room and made comfortable lying on the special couch. The technologist will position the gamma camera over your abdomen and ask you to lie still. The technologist will remain in the control room and watch you through the glass screen in the examination room. It will be necessary to take up to six different views or one continuous rotation of the camera (called a SPECT scan).

Will it be uncomfortable?

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

How long will it take?

It takes 2–3 hours while the isotope is absorbed into the kidney. The scanning process usually takes 30 minutes, and your time in the department will be less than one hour in total.

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