

## 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 after-effects?

No, not unless you have had the furosemide injection to make you pass more urine. The radiopharmaceutical injection causes no side-effects, nor will you feel drowsy. You can drive home afterwards and return to your normal activities.

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.

## 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](http://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

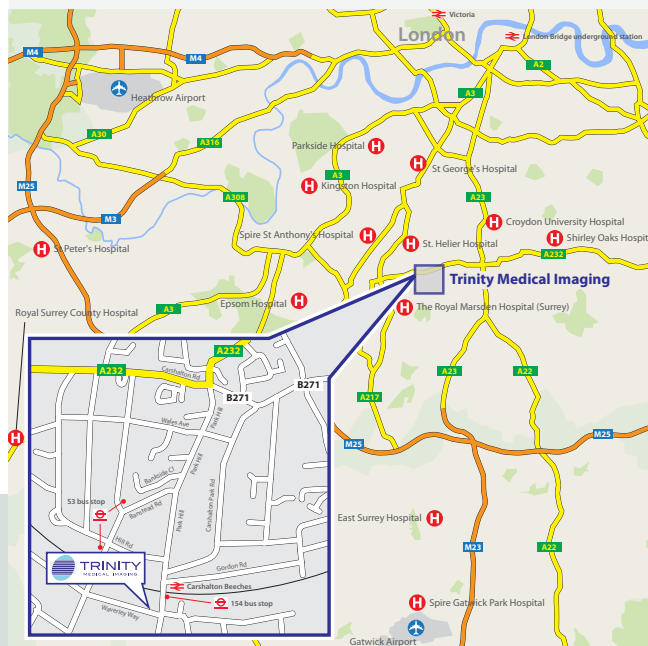
Tel : 020 3137 2155

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Email : [info@trinitymedicalimaging.co.uk](mailto:info@trinitymedicalimaging.co.uk)

[www.trinitymedicalimaging.co.uk](http://www.trinitymedicalimaging.co.uk)

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TMI-PIMAG3V1

# Information for patients having an isotope renogram

(Also known as a MAG 3 renogram)

## 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 renogram or MAG 3 renogram. 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 renogram?

A renogram involves an injection into a vein in the arm of a small quantity of radiopharmaceutical. This goes around in the bloodstream and is carried to the kidneys. It then gets extracted by the kidneys, so that it accumulates in the bladder. The gamma camera detects the radiation coming from the tracer in the kidneys, the tubes leading from the kidneys to the bladder (the ureters) and the bladder itself. A picture is produced of the kidneys showing what they look

like while they are working and a graph showing how well each kidney is working. This is called the renogram.

## 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 3 months. In fact, the risks from missing a disorder by not having a MAG3 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.

## Is there any special preparation for the scan?

Yes, to have the best pictures of your kidneys you need to drink at least **2 pints (1 litre)** of liquid in the **two hours** before your appointment. Water and refreshments are available in the waiting room at Trinity Medical Imaging, but it is worth making sure you have plenty to drink before you arrive.

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 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 might have. 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 position the gamma camera behind your back and pelvis and ask you to keep as still as possible. The technologist will then give you an injection of a drug called furosemide into a vein, generally the one near your elbow. This drug helps the kidneys drain and you may feel that you want to pass water. The needle, attached to a small plastic tube, will generally be left in the vein. After fifteen minutes, the technologist will give you an injection of the radiopharmaceutical through the plastic tube in your arm. The technologist will remain in the control room and watch you through the glass screen in the examination room. It will be necessary to scan you continuously for 20 or 30 minutes. At the end of the scan, you may be asked to empty your bladder and further images may be taken.

## 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 40 minutes, and your total time in the department should be about one hour.