

Fact sheet

Mag-3 Renal Scan

A MAG-3 renal scan is a test that shows renal function (how well the kidneys are working) and assesses drainage (looking for obstruction/ blockage) of the urinary system.

Procedure:

- The scan requires an injection of a small amount of radioactive substance ("tracer") into a vein. This tracer travels to the kidneys by the bloodstream.
- The amount of radiation involved is very low. The tracer is non-toxic and will not cause nausea, hot flushes or drowsiness.
- The tracer is quickly flushed from the body naturally by going to the toilet.
- A small plastic tube (cannula) is inserted into a vein and used for the injection. Images of the kidneys are started immediately.
- Your child is required to keep very still for the images. We therefore position and gently secure your child to the scanning table before commencing the study.
- The images usually take about 25 minutes to complete.
- Our doctor will look at the images and in some instances, a medicine called Lasix, will be given through the cannula to assist kidney drainage. More images are then taken for 20 minutes.
- Your child can watch television or a video/ DVD to help pass the time
- After the scan, the cannula is removed and your child can return to normal daily activities.

We like parents or caregivers to stay during the scan as children are usually more cooperative and less apprehensive when a loved one is with them. However, the number of people present during the scan must be kept to a minimum.

Other children can't be allowed into the procedure room. Please make alternative arrangements for their care during the procedure. Children up to 10 years old may be cared for in the WCH crèche.

Patient Preparation:

Please be sure to follow instructions carefully to avoid having to rebook the scan.

AnGel cream- An anaesthetic cream (AnGel) can be used for children aged 1 month and over. The AnGel cream will numb the skin to help take the "ouch" out of the injection. The cream needs to be applied one hour before the injection is given.

All Patients should have normal breakfast/snacks before the scan, and a couple of extra drinks (water or juice) is recommended. Young children may be given milk. For Babies, an extra feed before the scan is ideal.

Pregnancy / Breast feeding:

Any person either having a Nuclear Medicine scan, or staying with a child during a scan, must inform the Nuclear Medicine staff if they are, or think they might be pregnant.

If you are having a Nuclear Medicine scan and are breastfeeding, please contact Nuclear Medicine staff prior to attending for your appointment.

Patient Identification:

Patient identification is an important step to ensure your child always receives the right care. You will be asked to state your child's name and date of birth several times during the Nuclear Medicine study.

Results:

The Mag3 scan result will be sent to your child's referring doctor.

If your child is unwell, or you are unable to attend your appointment please contact the Nuclear Medicine Department on 8161 6020.