Fact sheet

Gastro-Oesophageal Reflux Study or Scintiscan

This radionuclide study is used to detect Gastro-oesophageal reflux and possible aspiration of stomach contents.

Procedure:

The child’s normal feed is divided into 3 parts. A radionuclide or ‘tracer’ is added to one portion. The amount of radiation involved is very small. The ‘tracer’ is non-toxic and will not cause any side effects.

The child has the divided parts of their feed in the usual manner (orally/nasogastric tube/gastrostomy tube).

When finished they are placed under a camera for continuous imaging over 45 minutes.

Delayed views are taken up to 2 hours after the initial images are completed. These usually take less than 15 minutes.

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.

Allow at least 3 hours for this scan

Patient Preparation:

No anti reflux medication for 24 hours prior to study.

Different fasting times are required for different age groups.

Children under 2 years- fast for 4 hours

Children between 2 & 4 years-fast for 6 hours

Children over 4 years-fast for 8 hours

Breast fed babies-Please bring 30-40 mls of expressed breast milk in a bottle to the scan.

Bottle fed-Please bring normal volume of formula (with no thickening agent) to the scan.

Cup drinkers-Any favourite milk drink should be brought in for the scan.

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.

Results:

The scan results 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.