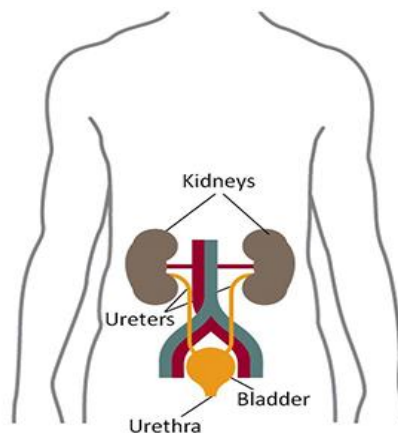


Having a DMSA scan: what should I know?



What are kidneys?

Most people have two kidneys which are connected to your bladder and help you go to the toilet. They are bean shaped organs that have the important job of filtering your blood to remove the waste (urine / wee) from your body



What is a DMSA (kidney) scan?

A DMSA (dimercapto succinic acid) scan is a special scan where pictures are taken to show detailed images of your kidneys. A type of dye (isotope) is used to make the pictures clearer. The dye stays in your body for a few hours and is removed when you go to the toilet.

Why am I on Jungle ward?

You have been asked to come to Jungle ward to have a cannula (little straw) placed in either your hand or arm. This is used to place the dye into your body for your pictures. If you are worried about the cannula or have any questions the play specialist and nurses are here to help.

Where will I have my DMSA scan?

Once you have your cannula inserted you will have your scan in the Lanesborough wing nuclear medicine department on the ground floor.

What happens during the scan?

In the nuclear medicine department, you will meet a radiographer.

A radiographer is a trained medical professional who is in charge of taking your pictures and making you feel comfortable during your DMSA scan.

Your parent / carer can also be with you.

Before the scan the dye will be put in your cannula (little straw). This will not hurt but might feel a little cold. The cannula is then removed by the radiographer. This feels like taking off a plaster.

The scan will be done after approximately two to three hours. During this time, you can go for a walk if you wish. The radiographer might ask you to go to the toilet on your return.

You can wear your own clothes during the scan. You will be asked to lay on a moving bed, feet first. The bed will move forwards between two large cameras, below and above your chest. None of the cameras touch you or will hurt you. You need to stay still while the pictures of your kidneys are being taken. This can take 30 minutes. Ask the radiographer if you can watch a movie or listen to the radio during your scan. Once the DSMA scan is finished you can go home.

What a DMSA scan picture looks like



Any questions?

If you have any questions, please ask any of the nurses, play specialists or radiographers on the ward / department. Jungle ward Tel: 020 8725 2034/35