

## **Can the patient take any steps to protect against radiation?**

If you have had a nuclear medicine scan in the recent past inform the staff member to ensure that tests are not duplicated unnecessarily.

## **The following precautions need to be observed for 36 hours after your Octreo scan:**

Patients should drink plenty of fluids and empty their bladders frequently. This helps to clear the injected material from the body. Patients should observe careful hygiene when going to the toilet during this period. It is advisable to flush the toilet twice after use.

**It is recommended that patients avoid spending long periods of time (in excess of 30 mins) in close contact with young children or pregnant women.**

If you are a nursing mother express and discard the breast milk for **36 hours** after your injection. You may resume normal breast-feeding after this time.

## **Important information**

Young children and pregnant women should not accompany patients to Nuclear medicine.

If there is any chance you may be **pregnant**, please inform the nuclear medicine department prior to your appointment. (01-7974440).

## **Directions (Beaumont Hospital)**

The Nuclear Medicine department is located in the radiology department, on the lower ground floor of the hospital. Please check in at the main x-ray reception desk on arrival.

## **Who do I contact if I am unable to attend?**

Please contact 01-7974440 if you wish to reschedule your appointment

Nuclear Medicine  
Radiology Department  
Beaumont Hospital  
Dublin 9.  
Tel: (01) 7974440  
Fax:(01) 8092576  
Web site: [www.beaumont.ie](http://www.beaumont.ie)

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**Beaumont Hospital  
Imaging and Interventional Radiology  
Directorate**

**OCTREO SCAN**

**Patient Information**

**Welcome to the  
Nuclear Medicine  
Department**

## **Introduction**

A Nuclear Medicine Octreoscan has been requested for you and this leaflet explains what the scan involves and what you need to do to prepare for your scan.

## **What is radiation?**

Radiation is a form of electrical and magnetic disturbance that transports energy. For example it is radiation that brings energy to us from the sun.

## **What is a Nuclear Medicine Octreo-Scan?**

In the nuclear medicine department you will be injected with a small amount of a radioactive 'tracer' or isotope which travels to the specific part of the body requiring examination. The isotope takes approximately 4 hours to accumulate in the body so you will not be scanned until approximately 4 hours after your injection. During this waiting period you will be free to leave the hospital if you wish.

## **What is a gamma camera?**

A gamma camera detects radiation coming from your body and forms a picture using sophisticated computer programmes. The camera consists of a flat detector which passes over the body.

## **Do I need to prepare for the scan?**

Sometimes you are required to stop taking certain medicines such as somatostatin or octreotide therapy prior to having the scan. Please ask your referring doctor to explain what this entails in your situation and for specific instructions. You may eat breakfast before your appointment. If you are suffering from constipation please take a laxative the night before you attend.

## **How will the injection affect me?**

You should not feel any different after your injection. The procedure will not affect your ability to drive and you do not need someone to accompany you unless you so wish.

## **What will happen during the scan?**

After your injection you will be asked to return to the nuclear medicine department approximately 4 hours later for your scan. You will also be asked to return to the Nuclear Medicine Department the following morning for a second scan. Occasionally patients are asked to return for a third scan 48 hours after their injection. You may be asked to undress and put on a hospital gown for your scan. You will be asked to remove metal objects from your person. Your scan will be done lying down on the gamma camera.



## **Will I receive much radiation?**

No. The amount of radiation you receive is very small and the risks are low. The radiation dose you receive from this scan is similar to that which you would receive from your environment over a period of 1 to 2 years. Your doctor will have weighed the benefit of improved diagnosis of your condition against the small risk of the radiation exposure.

## **How does a nuclear medicine scan differ from an X-ray?**

Nuclear Medicine patients are administered substances that emit radiation and which enable staff to investigate processes that are happening in the patient's body. The amount of radiation is similar to that used in X-ray. In Nuclear Medicine the patient is emitting radiation for a period after the substance is administered. For Octreo scans the radiation can remain in the body for up to 36 hours. Your radiographer will advise you on the precautions you will need to apply after your Octreo scan. These precautions should be followed for **36 hours after your scan**.

