

NUCLEAR MEDICINE DMSA SCAN

A DMSA scan is a test used to measure kidney size, function and scarring. Scarring can be associated with urinary reflux. The procedure involves the injection of a small amount of radiation into a vein. The amount of radiation your child receives is based on your child's weight and age. The injection will be given by an experienced nuclear medicine technologist or doctor.

The injection takes 3 hours to show the kidneys, so once the child has been injected you will be given a time to return to the nuclear medicine department for the pictures. In between times, you and your child are free to leave the department and the hospital. There are no restrictions to your child's activities or diet during this time.

When you come back, your child needs to lie still during the one hour it will take to get good pictures. We use videos and toys to help distract children during this time, so if your child has a favourite toy or video please bring it along.

There is no special preparation for the procedure, but please dress your child in clothing that contains no metal clips or buttons as this can interfere with the pictures.

If you pay to park at the John Hunter Hospital you can collect a car park card once your child has been injected. This allows you to park, at no extra cost, on your return visit to the department later that day.