

Information for patients having a 68Ga-DOTATATE scan

Please allow 3 hours for your appointment.

Please note: Due to its short radioactive half-life, 68Ga- DOTATATE is produced by our radiopharmacy 30 minutes before your appointment time. The production of radioactive tracers is a difficult, sensitive process and failures can occur. During production failures, we will inform you as soon as possible and reschedule your examination with priority.

On the day of your scan

You will be asked to change into a gown if necessary and your height and weight will be taken. A technologist will go through a brief questionnaire with you before putting a cannula (little tube) into a vein in your arm. You will receive a radioactive injection of 68Ga-DOTATATE into the cannula and undergo a period of rest for 60-90 minutes. During this rest period, you will not be permitted to have family or friends with you. There will be staff present to monitor your needs at all times. You may bring music with you if you wish, such as an iPod or MP3 player.

Following the period of rest, you will be taken through to the PET/CT scanner where your scan will take approximately 30 minutes. However, depending on the nature of your scan this time may vary.

After your scan is finished and we have checked your images, you will be allowed to leave the department. We will forward the results of your scan to your referring doctor within two working days.

Preparation

There is no specific preparation for this scan. **You can eat and drink as normal.** Any medications can be taken as instructed by your Doctor.

What are the risks?

The amount of radiation that you will receive from the scan is equivalent to seven years of background radiation. If you have any concerns about radiation you can ask to talk to a physicist or a doctor in the nuclear medicine department.

There are no side-effects associated with the scan and once you finish your test you may resume normal activities, although we advise you not to spend prolonged time in close contact (<1m distance) with pregnant women or small children for six hours following your scan.

If there is a chance you may be pregnant or are breastfeeding, please inform us immediately. PET/CT is not recommended if you are pregnant as there may be a risk to the baby. If you are breastfeeding you can have the scan but you should discontinue breastfeeding for six hours and discard any milk expressed. We also recommend you do not spend too much time close to your baby for six hours following the scan. Please ask to talk to a doctor or physicist if you have concerns or require more information.

Please be aware that extremely sensitive radiation monitors now exist at airports, seaports and some train stations. It is possible that these will detect even the small amounts of activity remaining in your body after the procedure. Personnel operating these devices are aware of this possibility and may need to ask you about your recent test. Carrying this letter will provide the information they require. Ask in the department how long you should carry the letter or any other questions you may have.