

YOUR ISOTOPE DAT (BRAIN) SCAN EXPLAINED

BEFORE

- **What is a DAT (Brain) scan?**

A DAT scan is a method of examining your brain to show conditions not seen on plain x-rays or MRI scans. It requires an injection of a small amount of radioactive scanning tracer, which is taken up by your brain. It takes approximately 3 to 4 hours for the injection to reach the brain, after which a scan will be taken. However you do not have to stay in the department during the 3 to 4 hours.

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

YES Please inform us immediately if you are taking any of the following medications:

Amphetamine

Methylamfetamine

Benzotropine

Dexamfetamine

Bupropion

Modafinil

Cocaine

Bupropion

Mazindol

Methylphenidate

Phentermine

Sertraline

Or if you think you may be allergic to iodine. (Shellfish etc.)

- **What about the radiation?**

The amount of radiation dose received is similar to that from having a back x-ray. However we do advise that close contact with expectant mothers and small children is minimised for the 18 hours after the injection (close contact would mean having a child sitting next to you or on your lap for more than ½ hour).

- **Is there anything I should tell the radiographer before the scan?**

Yes. Ladies we must perform this test within 28 days of the start of your last period if the appointment falls outside this please telephone the department. If there is any chance that you may be pregnant or if you are breastfeeding please inform us before the injection.

DURING

- **What does the procedure involve?**

On your arrival in the department, you will be given a small tablet to take. This takes one hour to take effect, before we can give you the scanning tracer. One hour after the tablet, you will be given a small injection into a vein in your arm (like a blood test). After this you will be free to leave the hospital to **return about 3 to 4 hours later** for your scan. Alternatively you may stay within the hospital until your scan, the choice is yours.

When you return, a camera will take pictures of your brain while you are lying on the scan bed. The scan takes approximately 45 minutes, and involves a camera rotating around your head, scanning as it goes. **If you do not feel that this will be possible, please contact us immediately.** You are not required to undress for this scan however we will ask you to remove any metallic objects such as ear-rings or necklaces.

AFTER

- **What happens after the scan**

You will be given another tablet to take home with you. This must be taken just before you go to bed.

You will then be able to leave the department.