

## **YOUR DMSA KIDNEY SCAN EXPLAINED**

- **What is a DMSA scan?**

This is a scan to show the size, shape, position and condition of your kidneys.

- **What does it involve?**

It involves an injection of a small amount of radioactive fluid into a vein in your arm. This then gets taken up by the kidneys over a period of 3 hours. You are free to leave the department once the injection has been done and will be told a time to return. When you do return we will take three 10-minute pictures either with you sitting on a chair in front of the camera or if you prefer lying on the bed. Once the pictures have been checked you will be able to leave.

- **Is there any preparation for the scan?**

No.

However after the injection where possible we encourage you to drink more than normal to help the injection reach the kidneys faster.

- **Will the injection hurt?**

The injection is similar to that of a blood test but we actually use a child's size needle so most people tend to think it is quite painless.

- **What about the radiation?**

The amount of radiation injected is very small and it soon passes naturally away in the urine. However LADIES this test should where possible be performed within 28 days of the start of your last menstrual period, therefore if your appointment falls outside this please telephone the department.