

YOUR CHILD'S DMSA KIDNEY SCAN EXPLAINED

- **What is a DMSA scan?**

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

- **What does it involve?**

It involves an injection of a small amount of radioactive fluid into a vein in their 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 3 pictures of your child while they lie on the bed. You will be able to stay with them throughout this and as each one takes 10minutes if you would like to bring their favourite toy or reading book it may help to pass the time. 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 encourage your child to drink more than normal to help the injection to reach the kidneys faster. It is also important to change their nappies as soon as they are wet or for them to go to the toilet more frequently to get rid of the radioactive fluid as it passes into the urine.

- **Will the injection hurt?**

We will give you a time to arrive before the injection when we will put on some anaesthetic spray which takes a little time to work. Then when it is time for the injection they should feel nothing and there are no side effects from it.

It is therefore very important to attend promptly within the CHILDREN'S ASSESSMENT UNIT to make sure that the anaesthetic spray has enough time to work properly.

- **What about the radiation?**

The amount of radiation injected is calculated on your child's bodyweight, therefore it is only a small amount.