WHITE BLOOD CELL (WBC) SCAN.

WHAT IS A WBC SCAN AND WHY AM I HAVING IT?
A WBC Scan is a test used to detect areas of infection in the body that may not be detectable by other tests such as Xray, CT or a Bone scan.

HOW IS THE WBC SCAN DONE?
The test takes up to 5 hours. It comprises the following parts:

- Approximately 20ml of your blood will be taken, and the white blood cells will be labelled with a small amount of radioactivity.
- This labelling procedure takes 90 minutes, and you can leave the Department during this time if you wish.
- When you return your blood will be given back to you, and then the cells will be allowed to distribute through your body for 3 hours. You can leave the Department during this time if you wish.
- Pictures will then be taken of your body, and this can take up to 1 hour to complete. You will be required to lie still while the pictures are taken and breathe normally.

Occasionally you may be asked to return for another type of scan, called a Colloid Scan, to improve the accuracy of the WBC Scan. You will be advised if you need the Colloid Scan before you leave at the end of your WBC Scan.

ARE THERE ANY SIDE EFFECTS?
No. The injection has no side effects and is not related to X-ray contrast injections. There is a small dose of radiation from the injection, similar to the dose of radiation you would receive from a chest X-ray. As the injection will not make you feel any different, you may drive after the scan if you wish.

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR MY SCAN?
No special preparation is required.

SHOULD I TAKE MY NORMAL MEDICATIONS?
Yes. Take all of your usual medications.

CAN I EAT AND DRINK ON THE DAY OF MY TEST?
Yes. There is no need to fast for any part of the WBC Scan.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING FOR MY SCAN?
Please bring your referral letter, Medicare Card, your past WBC and Bone Scans, X-rays, CT scans, MRI Scans, and Ultrasounds.

WHAT IF I AM PREGNANT OR BREAST-FEEDING?
Usually the test is not performed on women who are pregnant or breast-feeding. If you are pregnant, think you might be or are unsure, please notify the staff prior to the start of the test.

CAN I TAKE THE RESULTS WITH ME?
Before you leave the Department, a Doctor will check the scan and you will be asked to wait while this occurs. Normally the results are prepared after you have left the Department and are posted to your Doctor within 24 hours (they should arrive within a few days). If the results are required for an appointment before this time, please notify staff and a result may be able to be given to you 1 hour after the test is done.

WHERE DO I GO FOR MY WBC SCAN?
Department of Nuclear Medicine & PET, Liverpool Hospital
Ground floor, New Clinical Building (Entrance J), Building No 021
Corner of Hart & Lachlan Streets, Liverpool, NSW-2171

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