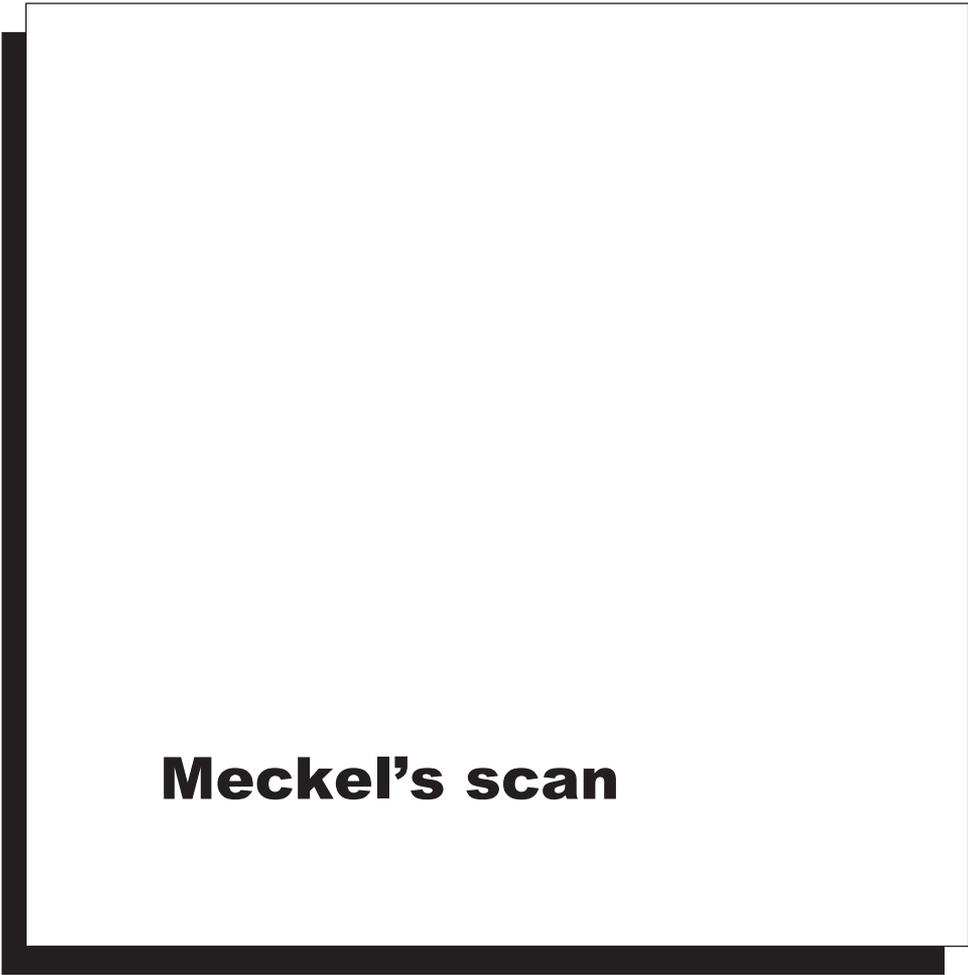




GUIDE



Meckel's scan



The Ottawa Hospital | L'Hôpital
d'Ottawa



Disclaimer

This is general information developed by The Ottawa Hospital. It is not intended to replace the advice of a qualified health-care provider.

Please consult your own health-care provider who will be able to determine if this information is appropriate for your specific situation.

Your doctor has requested a Meckel's scan. This booklet will answer some of the questions you may have.

What is a Meckel's scan?

A Meckel's scan is for detection and localization of a Meckel's diverticulum containing functioning gastric mucosa. In other words, we are looking for a small section of your bowel that is abnormal.

Do I need to prepare for the scan?

This test requires that you be fasting from midnight before your test. Before starting your test, the technologist will give you a medication which will make the study more sensitive.

What is involved?

When you arrive to the Nuclear Medicine department a technologist will explain the procedure to you in full detail and then give you a medication that will help us to see your abdomen more clearly. There are no side effects from this medication. You will then be asked to wait approximately one hour while the medication takes effect. The technologist will then take you into the imaging room and have you remove any metal from your abdomen area. You will then be asked to lie on an imaging table with the camera positioned over your abdomen.

The technologist will then inject a radioactive tracer into a vein in your arm and begin a series of images that will take approximately 30 minutes. There are no side effects to the injection. After the 30 minutes of imaging the technologist may ask you to empty your bladder and then take another one minute image.

Will it hurt?

Only the pinprick of the injection needle may hurt a bit. You may have had a blood test in the past. This is much the same.

Is the radiation dangerous?

The amount of radioactivity used for this test is quite small and will disappear by itself soon after the scan is finished. (Most of the radioactivity disappears within one day and any remaining traces disappear within one week.) The amount of radiation is similar to that from an x-ray examination.

Do I need to do anything after the scan?

No special precautions are needed after the scan. If you are travelling across any borders in the seven days after your scan, please ask us for further advice. Ports and airports have very sensitive radiation detectors which may pick up tiny amounts of radioactivity remaining after your scan. We will give you a letter that you can show to customs officials at ports or airports.

What happens to the results of the scan?

A specially trained doctor will examine the pictures. This is normally done soon after the end of the scan. A report is then sent to the doctor who asked us to do the scan. Your doctor will normally receive the report within one week.

Is there anything I should tell the staff before the scan?

Yes, if you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant, please phone us to let us know. Also, please telephone us if you are breastfeeding.

Any more questions?

We want your visit to be as pleasant as possible. If you have any questions, please ask the staff in the Nuclear Medicine department. You can telephone, or ask before the scan starts. Our telephone number is **613-761-4831, option 8**.

