

### **What does GFR mean?**

GFR stands for glomerular filtration rate. The test is a measure of the rate at which your kidneys are able to filter waste products. This test helps the doctor determine how well your kidneys are working.

### **Why am I having this test?**

The results from the test can help assess ability of your kidneys to cope with certain treatments such as chemotherapy. The test may be performed as a baseline before treatment starts and then at regular intervals.

Your doctor may also request this test if they suspect a problem with your kidneys or if you are a potential kidney donor.

### **What does it involve?**

You will have a small injection in your arm of a radioactive material that is taken up by the kidneys. The first time you have this test we will take pictures of your kidneys with a special machine called a gamma camera for about 45 minutes.

Next we will take a series of blood samples from your other arm every hour from 2 until 5 hours after your injection. You may leave the department between blood samples and can eat and drink in this time.

### **Do I need to prepare for the test?**

**We need you to drink plenty of fluids on the day of the test and the day before.**

Avoid drinks containing caffeine such as tea, coffee, cola and energy drinks from 10 pm the night before your test, as these may dehydrate you and affect our results.

On the morning of the test eat a light breakfast and avoid strenuous exercise. There is no need to alter your regular medication.

### **Is the radiation dangerous?**

No, even though you will be injected with a radioactive material the amount involved is very small indeed and is usually similar to an equivalent X-ray examination.

### **Note for female patients**

Please contact the department before your appointment if there is a chance you may be pregnant or if you are breastfeeding.

### **Will it hurt?**

Only the pinprick of the injections may hurt a little. You should not notice any untoward effects from the radioactive injection, it will not make you feel sleepy or prevent you from driving a car.

### **Are there any special precautions afterwards?**

No, you can eat, drink and go wherever you wish. The radioactivity disappears naturally by a process called decay.

The only thing we do advise is to avoid prolonged close contact with children or pregnant women for the remainder of the day - simply to avoid exposing them to any unnecessary radiation.

For children under investigation, the radiation dose is so low that there is no need to observe the above precaution.

### **What happens to the results?**

The results take 24hrs to process. They will then be seen by a doctor in the department and a report will be sent to the doctor who asked us to do the scan.

### **General**

There are no lockable facilities in Radiology. We strongly recommend that any valuables are left at home. Please be aware that CCDHB does not take responsibility for any loss or damage of personal property belonging to patients whilst on CCDHB premises

### **Contact us**

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