

Dopamine Transporter (DaTscan) scan

DaTscan is a medical imaging test used to help diagnose neurological conditions such as Parkinson's disease and other degenerative Parkinsonian syndromes. This scan involves the injection of a small amount of a radioactive substance called DaTscan, which allows doctors to create images of the brain.

If your doctor has recommended a DaTscan, it is important to prepare for the appointment. You will be asked to stop certain medications for a period of time before the scan, as they can interfere with the interpretation of the results. Your doctor will provide you with specific instructions regarding which medications to stop and for how long.

On the day of the appointment, you will be asked to arrive at the hospital where the scan will take place. You may be asked to change into a hospital gown and to remove any jewellery or metal objects. You will then be taken to a room where the injection will be administered.

The injection itself is quick and relatively painless. You may experience some mild discomfort or a slight burning sensation as the injection is given. You will then need to wait for a short period of time while the DaTscan circulates through your bloodstream and is taken up by the brain.

Once the waiting period is over, you will be asked to lie down on a table, which will be moved into the scanning machine. The machine will then take images of your brain, which will be analysed by a radiologist or neurologist.

After the scan is complete, you will be able to leave the hospital and resume your normal activities. Your doctor will receive the results of the scan and will discuss the findings with you.

It is important to note that DaTscan is not suitable for everyone and may not be the right diagnostic test for your specific condition. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of the test with you and determine if it is appropriate for your individual needs.

In summary, a DaTscan is a medical imaging test used to diagnose certain neurological conditions. Prior to the scan, you will be asked to stop certain medications that can interfere with the interpretation of the results. The injection itself is quick and relatively painless, and the scan takes only a few minutes. After the scan, your doctor will discuss the findings with you and determine the best course of treatment for your specific condition.