Your doctor has recommended that you have a Nuclear Medicine Labelled White Cell (LWC) Scan. While there is no specific preparation for this study, the following will give you some idea of what to expect on the day of your test:

Please be aware that you will need to allow a full day for a LWC Scan. You will not be required to remain in the department the entire day but you will be required to attend 4 appointment times during the day.

At your initial morning appointment a small sample of your blood will be taken. You will not be required again until approximately 3 hours later. The exact time will be confirmed with you on the day. During this time lab staff will work to label your white blood cells with a small amount of radioactivity. This is actually a relatively simple procedure but it is time consuming. You are not required to stay in the department during this break and many people choose to leave.

At the 2nd appointment of the day you will be reinjected with your blood that has now been labelled with a small amount of radioactivity. There are no side effects to the radioactivity and it will not interfere with any medications you may be taking. This appointment takes only 5 minutes. You will be asked to return again in approximately one hour.

At the 3rd appointment for the day you will have your first set of images. Imaging is a painless procedure and involves lying on a bed with a camera positioned above you. Please allow around 30 minutes for this appointment. You will be asked to return again in approximately two hours.

At the 4th appointment you will have further imaging. Please allow at least an hour for this appointment.

A very small number of patients will also be required to collect their faeces for 48 hours to improve the accuracy of the test. This will be discussed with you if required.

This study is unsuitable for pregnant women. Breast-feeding mothers can have a Nuclear Medicine LWC Scan but will be required to express and discard their breast milk for 24 hours after the injection. Feeding your baby with expressed breast milk or formula is recommended during this time.

For more information please contact:
08 8402 0270