PATIENT INFORMATION. The exam: what is the purpose and how is it conducted. Certain neurodegenerative diseases result in damage to structures deep in the brain. The clinical effect of this damage is the loss of certain brain functions, especially motor functions. It is important to understand that the loss of such functions may also be mimicked by other diseases that are less complex than neurodegenerative pathologies, and for which the symptoms do not arise as a result of damage to deep brain structures. It is therefore important to differentiate these two different cases to select the most appropriate therapy and manage the disease optimally over time. The clinical exam and the use of specific clinical tests is not always sufficient to distinguish diseases resulting in damage to structures deep in the brain from diseases that do not result in such damage. The aim of the proposed imaging of your brain (SPECT with DaTSCAN) is precisely to ensure an accurate diagnosis of the reasons for your symptoms. This exam requires the intravenous injection of a "radiopharmaceutical", which then attaches to specific sites or receptors present in such deep-brain structures; the radiation emitted by this radiopharmaceutical is measured by an instrument (gamma camera) and provides us with an actual image of these structures, allowing us to understand if they are functioning properly or sub-optimally. We would like to remind you that after the injection you will be taken to a waiting room where you will need to stay for about 3-4 hours. After this period, which is necessary for the proper execution of the exam, you will be taken to the acquisition room, and asked to lie down on the gamma camera exam table so that we can acquire images of your brain. The acquisition of images takes about 45 minutes, during which you must, in your own interest, try to stay as still as possible. Exam preparation: no specific preparation is required, except to avoid ingesting stimulants such as tea, coffee, alcohol, or nicotine prior to the exam. It is necessary to temporarily stop taking certain medications prior to the exam (please refer to the list). Please remember to bring any documentation that may be useful for the exam, in particular the CT or MRI scan of your brain. Radiation and other types of risk: for this type of exam, the radiation dose used is relatively low (it can be considered similar to about 2-3 years of cosmic radiation and natural environmental radiation, representing about 30% of the annual dose considered to be safe for physicians and technicians working with radiation). After the exam, you may move around freely, be in close contact with other persons, and use hygiene facilities as you would usually. Nevertheless, it is advised to avoid close and prolonged contact with pregnant women and young children, and to drink water and urinate frequently after the exam to reduce radiation exposure. Pregnancy: at the time of the exam you must be certain that you are not pregnant. Pharmacological interactions: You must temporarily stop taking certain medications over the 24 hours that precede the SPECT exam, in compatibility with the clinical condition of the patient.

Medications that interfere with DaTSCAN uptake and which must therefore be suspended over the preceding 24 hours
- Amphetamines, benztrapine, bupropion, (CORZEN; QUOMEM; ZYBAN), cocaine, mazindolo, methylphenidate, phentermine, sertraline (SERAD, TATIG, ZOLOFT); clomipramine (ANAFRANIL, CLORMIPRAMINA), fluoxetine (ALIANTIL, FLUOREXEN, FLUOXIN, IBIXETIN, NOVALBAC, PROZAC, AZUR, CLEXICOR, DEPREZEN, DIESEN, FLOTINA, XEREDIEN), desipramine (NORTIMIL), ipramine (TOFRANIL), trimipramine (SURMONTIL), amitriptyline (ADEPRIL, LAROXIL, TRIPTIZOL), nortriptyline (NORITEN), dosulepin (PROTIADEN), maprotiline (LUDIOMIL), citalopram (ELOPRAM, PRAMEXYL; SEROPRAM), paroxetine (DAPAROX, EUTIMIL, SEREUPIN, SEROXAT), fluvoxamine (DUMIROX, FEVARIN, MAVERAL), escitalopram (CLORDIFLAXIN, SORPRA), mirtazapine (CLIORMAZ, MAZAPRIL), mitrazapine (METRAZOL), omeprazole (THOMPEP), pramipexol (SINTAV), ropinirol (Requip), amantadine (MANTADAN), benzexol, budipine, levodopa (LEVOMET, MADOPAR, SINEMET), metoprolol (METOPROLOL, LOPRESOR, SELOKEN), pergolide (NOPAR, NOPAR STARTER), primidone (MYSOLINE), propranolol (INDERAL), selegiline (EGIBREN, JUREX, SELECOM, SELEGILINA, DOROM, SELEDAT, XILOPAR), trihexifenidil (ARTANE), pramipexol (Mirapexin), ropinirol (Requip)

Medications that do not significantly interfere with DaTSCAN uptake
- Amantadine (MANTADAN), benzexol, budipine, levodopa (LEVOMET, MADOPAR, SINEMET), metoprolol (METOPROLOL, LOPRESOR, SELOKEN), pergolide (NOPAR, NOPAR STARTER), primidone (MYSOLINE), propranolol (INDERAL), selegiline (EGIBREN, JUREX, SELECOM, SELEGILINA, DOROM, SELEDAT, XILOPAR), trihexifenidil (ARTANE), pramipexol (Mirapexin), ropinirol (Requip)