

# Computerised Tomography (CT) Examination

An information guide



# Computerised Tomography (CT)

## What is a CT scan?

A computerised tomography or CT scan is a set of detailed pictures produced by a highly developed x-ray machine in conjunction with specialised computer equipment. Please note the CT scanner is not a 'tunnel type' scanner, but a short circular - shaped one, similar to a large doughnut.



Prior to coming for your scan you may be asked to collect a drink and instructions to take in preparation for the test. This drink will help to improve the pictures taken.

- If you have asthma please bring your medication with you
- If you are diabetic and taking the medication Metformin, Glucophage or Avandamet please inform the booking centre on 0161 778 2233.

## What will happen when I arrive for my scan?

Please report to the reception in the CT scan or X-ray Department. You may be shown to a changing cubicle and asked to undress. If you need to undress, you will be given a cotton gown and dressing gown and be provided with a container for your belongings. It may be necessary for you to have a drink immediately before the scan. Please note that patients from casualty will take priority.

**Does the scan hurt?**

No, the scan is not painful. You will be taken to the scan room by a radiographer and asked to lie down on the scan table (a narrow couch). During the scan you may be asked to hold your breath or not to swallow for a short period of time. If you think you may have problems following these instructions please speak to any of the staff. The most important thing is for you to remain still throughout the scan. The radiographer will be with you all the time and will be able to answer any further questions you may have.

**Will I need an injection?**

Some internal parts of the body show up on the scan better than others. About half of the patients we scan need to have a small injection into a vein in their arm. This helps us to see those parts of the body which do not show up very well. Often we will do one scan before the injection and one after. Some people experience warmth at the site of the injection, flushing, an overall warm feeling and an unusual taste in their mouth, these side effects usually only last for a few moments. You will be alright to drive afterwards.

**When will I know the results?**

Although the person carrying out your scan can see organs or parts of your body on the screen, the images must be carefully interpreted by a radiologist. The radiologists will prepare a report and send it to your consultant a few days later. You will receive an outpatient appointment and your consultant will discuss the results with you.

**What if I cannot keep my CT appointment?**

If you cannot keep your appointment for any reason please contact the booking office straight away on 0161 778 2233.

If you are admitted to hospital before your CT appointment, please tell the staff on the ward that you have a CT appointment.

**If English is not your first language and you need help, please contact the Interpretation and Translation Service**

Jeśli angielski nie jest twoim pierwszym językiem i potrzebujesz pomocy, skontaktuj się z działem tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych

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Dacă engleza nu este prima ta limbă și ai nevoie de ajutor, te rugăm să contactezi Serviciul de interpretare și traducere

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☎ : 0161 627 8770

@ : interpretation@pat.nhs.uk

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For advice on stopping smoking contact the Specialist Stop Smoking Service on 01706 517 522

**For general enquiries please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0161 604 5897**


**For enquiries regarding clinic appointments, clinical care and treatment please contact 0161 624 0420 and the Switchboard Operator will put you through to the correct department / service**

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The NCA brings together Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust and the hospitals and community services of The Royal Oldham Hospital, Fairfield General Hospital in Bury, and Rochdale Infirmary (currently part of The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust).

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