

CT Abdomen Examinations

What is a CT Scan?

A CT (Computed Tomography) Scan is a special type of X-ray examination. CT combines the use of X-rays with computer technology to create detailed images of the body. The scanner is a slim, doughnut-shaped machine with a bed that moves slowly through the hole in the middle as you are being scanned. You will not be enclosed in a 'tunnel'. You will need to lie still and follow simple instructions.

Preparation for your scan

You should not have anything to eat for 4 hours before the scan, but you may drink a small amount of clear fluids during this time.

Any regular medication may be taken at the usual times.

IMPORTANT: IF YOU HAVE HAD EITHER A BARIUM MEAL OR BARIUM ENEMA AT ANY TIME IN THE 4 WEEKS BEFORE THIS SCAN APPOINTMENT, PLEASE LET US KNOW ON 0151 604 7483.

On arrival in the department

When you arrive in the department, you will be given a drink. This is a special 'dye' that shows up the stomach and bowel on the scan. You will need to drink this over a period of time and we will advise you of this when we give you the drink.

What will happen during your scan?

You will be required to remove any jewellery or loose metal objects. If you wear loose fitting clothing with no zips or metal fasteners (Ladies, please do not wear under-wired bras), you will not need to change into a hospital gown.

It may be necessary to administer an X-ray 'dye' (iodinated contrast medium) during the procedure by injection into a vein in your arm. This will improve the visibility of your organs and blood vessels. If you are given an injection of 'dye' you will be asked to remain in the department for 10 - 15 minutes after the injection. This is because on occasions some people may experience side effects i.e. itchiness of the skin or rashes. These side effects are however rare.

How long will your scan take?

The scan itself will usually take approximately 20 - 30 minutes. However, including the time taken for the drink to pass through your system, you will be in the department for a total of 1 to 1½ hours.

How will you get your results?

The results of your scan will be sent to the consultant, GP or clinic that requested your scan.

Other instructions

If you are female and **ARE** pregnant or if there is a possibility that you **COULD BE** pregnant it is very important that you notify the department on the above number as soon as possible.