

# CT General Information

## Preparing for the Examination

Your appointment letter will include more detailed instructions on how to prepare for the examination.

- 24 hours before and 24 hours after your appointment it is advised you drink plenty of fluids
- You may be asked to change into a hospital gown and asked to remove jewellery and any loose items

## Are there any risks?

- CT Scanning involves using X-rays which means that someone having a CT scan will be exposed to some ionising radiation. We are all exposed to radiation on a daily basis from the surrounding environment, and usually it is not harmful (Further details will be given in your appointment letter)
- You may need an injection of dye (contrast medium). Usually there are no problems, however occasionally, an allergic reaction can occur, this can result in a rash, or very occasional a mild asthma attack
- Although a CT scan has some potential risk as described above, it is very unusual that there are any problems. There are always risks and benefits of any medical test and having a CT scan very often provides extremely useful information to your Doctor which can help to decide if you need any further treatment

## **During the examination**

- In the examination room the healthcare assistant, radiographer or radiologist will introduce him or herself to you. You will be asked to lie down on the scanning table while the examination takes place
- You may have a small injection of contrast medium into a vein in order to increase the amount of information on the scan. The injection usually causes nothing more than a warm feeling passing around your body, this feeling soon disappears
- If you do have an injection you will be asked to stay in the department for at least 15 minutes after the examination
- You will be asked to hold your breath for short periods during the scan

## **How long will it take?**

- Your scan may take between 15 minutes and 30 minutes depending on the part being scanned

## **After the examination**

- After the examination you may dress and go home
- Eat normally and drink plenty of fluids
- The results of your scan will be sent to the consultant, GP or clinic that requested your scan

## Other information

- If you normally travel to hospital by ambulance please contact your GP surgery to arrange this approximately a week before your appointment
- We are unable to provide supervision for children during your scan
- 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