

CT Paediatric 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 the scan takes place. Your child will not be enclosed in a 'tunnel'. Your child will need to lie still and follow simple instructions.

Preparation for the scan

Your child should not have anything to eat for 4 hours before the scan but may drink clear fluids during this time.

Any regular medication may be taken at the usual times.

What will happen during the scan?

Your child will be required to remove any jewellery or loose metal objects. If your child is wearing loose fitting clothing with no zips or metal fasteners they will not need to change into a hospital gown.

It may be necessary to administer an X-ray 'dye' (iodinated contrast) during the procedure by injection into a vein in your child's arm. This will improve the visibility of your child's organs and blood vessels. If your child is 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 will you get the results?

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

Other instructions

We are unable to provide supervision for other children during the scan therefore please make your own provision for childcare whilst you attend this appointment.