

# CT Virtual Colonoscopy 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 whole 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.

**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.**

## Preparation for your scan

The success of this examination depends on you being careful with your diet, being starved for a while and taking a fairly strong laxative.

During the starvation period you may drink as much fluid as you wish but you must take at least a quarter of a pint of fluid every hour. You may drink clear soup or suck barley sugar sweets.

Any regular medication, except bran or iron tablets may be taken at the usual times.

It is necessary for you to stop drinking completely for 2 hours before your scan so that there is no fluid in your bowel during the scan.

## What will happen during the scan?

You will be required to remove any jewellery or loose metal objects. As you may be required to change into a hospital gown, you may wish to bring a dressing gown with you to this appointment.

In the scan room you will have air put into your rectum (bottom) via a small tube. You will have a cannula put into your arm and given an injection to relax the bowel and make the procedure more comfortable. The air outlines the bowel on the scan.

It may be necessary to administer an X-ray dye (iodinated contrast medium) during the procedure by injection into the cannula 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 after the injection. This is because on occasion some people may experience side effects i.e. itchiness of the skin or rashes. These side effects are however rare.

## How will you get your results?

The results of your scan will be sent to the referring 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.