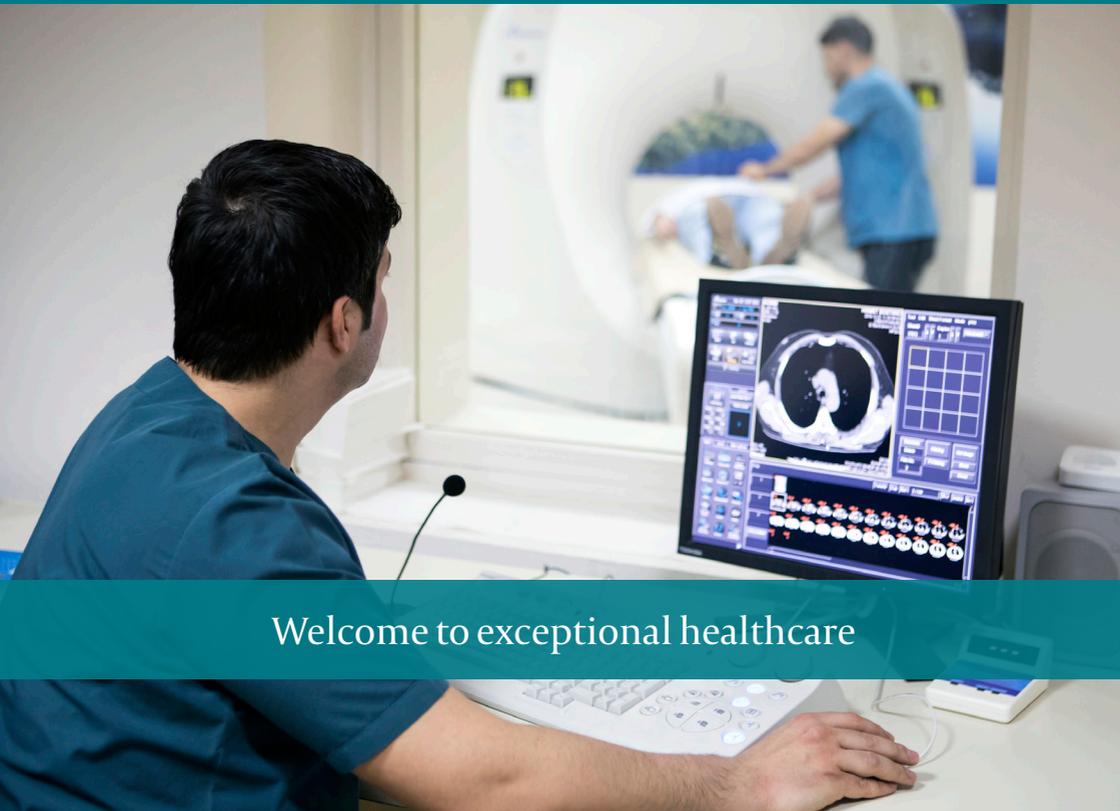


CT scan with contrast

Patient information leaflet



Welcome to exceptional healthcare

This patient information sheet should answer any questions you have about your upcoming diagnostic test(s). If you still have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact our Radiology Department. Contact details can be found on the back of this leaflet.

Introduction

This leaflet tells you about CT Scan with Contrast. It explains how the examination is performed, what to expect, and the risks involved. It is not meant to replace informed discussion between you and your Referring Clinician, but can act as a starting point for such a discussion.

What is CT Scan?

A CT scan is a special x-ray examination that takes detailed pictures of the body. In order to get greater detail, the CT scan sometimes uses a contrast agent that is injected through a vein in your arm.

What preparation is needed for the examination?

You must not eat for four hours before the examination, but you can drink so you are well hydrated.

If you are diabetic contact the department prior to your procedure so an early morning appointment can be arranged. Also make sure you have enough to eat the night before to prevent low sugar levels.

We will also need to see your blood result for your kidney function – eGFR before the scan.

How long will it take?

The examination takes approximately 15-20 minutes but you should expect to be in the Department for up to 40 minutes.

Possible complications

Occasionally some people have an allergic reaction to the contrast used during the examination.

Rarely, some contrast may go into the tissue in your arm instead of a vein, this can get swollen and painful.

We have doctors and facilities in the department to see to you if any of the above happen.

What exactly happens before and during the examination?

When you arrive in the Department please report to reception and take a seat. You will be asked to complete a CT questionnaire, consent form and change into a gown for your scan. You will be called into the scanning room by a radiographer, who will check your name, date-of-birth and address. They will also explain the examination to you. Please ask any questions you may have or offer any information you feel the radiographer needs to know.

You will be asked to lie on the scanning table. The radiographer will insert a small plastic needle into your arm or hand. You will have to lie with your arms up above your head or not depending on the area being

scanned. If you are unable to do this please tell the radiographer and they will position you in a different way. The radiographer will leave the room to start your scan; they will be able to see and hear you at all times.

The table you are laying on will move in and out of the scanner several times. You will be instructed to hold your breath at different points for some examinations.

Once your examination is complete the radiographer will come back in and help you off the table. The radiographer may give you additional aftercare instructions.

What about my general health?

Please contact the CT Department for advice if you:

- are a female of child-bearing age or may be pregnant
- think you may be allergic to the contrast used
- are diabetic and take Metformin
- are unable to attend the appointment or have difficulty with any aspect of the instructions.

Results

If you were referred for this scan by your GP, the report will be sent to your GP within 2 working days. You should make an appointment to see your GP after this time to get your results.

If you were referred by a hospital doctor or consultant then you will get the results at your next clinic appointment. If you do not already have one then you should contact the consultant's secretary to arrange it.

What happens after the test?

You may get dressed and go. You may eat and drink as normal.

How will I get my results?

You will not immediately receive your results. The images will be reviewed by a Consultant Radiologist and a report is then issued to your Referring Clinician. If you do not already have an appointment to return to the clinic, you should contact your clinic to arrange this appointment.

Important information for patients paying for their own treatment

We respectfully request that your account is settled either by insurance authorisation or payment at the time of your appointment.

Further information

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further queries. Contact details can be found on the back of this leaflet.

If you would like a copy of this information in large print or an alternative language, please contact the Radiology Department.

Please note we are unable to provide child care facilities during your examination and children will be unable to accompany you into the examination rooms.

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