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Hospital guide.

What to expect when you come to CT Scan.

What is a CT scan?

A CT scanner uses X-rays to produce pictures. X-rays are like a beam of light that you can't see. The ray passes through the area of your body we are scanning. This information goes to a computer which makes the pictures. The best part is that nothing touches you and it doesn't hurt. The machine itself isn't very loud, it sounds a bit like a washing machine.

Why am I having one?

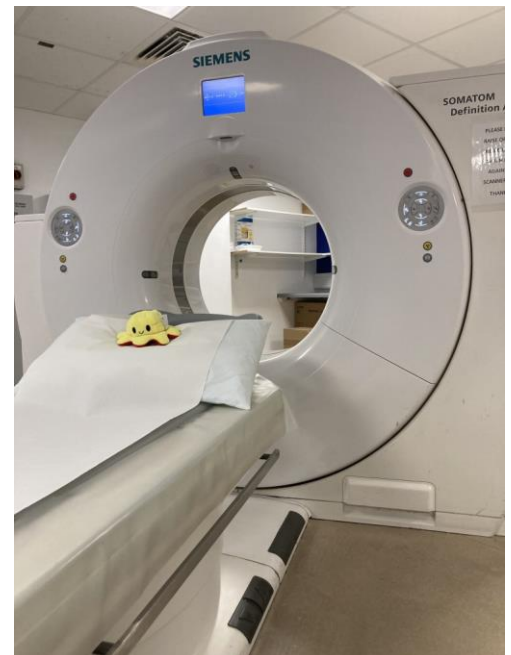
It allows the doctors to see what's going on inside your body and work out why you've not been feeling very well.

Before your scan.

You may have to go onto a children's ward before the scan to have some drinks and a cannula placed. A cannula is a small tube in the back of your hand or arm. All of this helps us see the different parts inside your body more clearly.

During your scan.

The person doing your scan is called a Radiographer. They will call you through and ask you to lie on the scan table which moves you through the scanner. It would be helpful if you could wear clothes that don't have anything metal on them, like a zip.



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Metal shows up on the pictures and might get in the way of something important on the scan. Don't worry if you forget, we can always move them out of the way and keep you covered with a blanket.

If you want the adult you have brought with you to stay in the room they can. They will need to wear a lead apron. This is to protect them from the X-rays.

Why do I need a cannula?

The Radiographer will check your cannula with some water. They will then attach the cannula to a pump. This machine will give you some liquid called contrast that helps us to see everything inside you more clearly.

Will it hurt?

The contrast might make you feel a bit warm and as if you are wetting yourself. Don't worry, you're not and the feeling will go away quite quickly. During the scan the table will move you through the machine and may ask you to hold your breath. This just stops your body moving whilst we are taking the pictures. Each breath hold will be less than ten seconds. We can see and hear you at all times so if you need anything just ask. The scan itself takes less than 5 minutes.

After the scan.

Once the scan is finished you can either go back to the ward or, once the cannula has been taken out, you can go home. The pictures will be sent to the doctor looking after you.



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What if I'm nervous?

It's perfectly normal to feel nervous, especially if you have not had a scan before. Why don't you arrange to have a treat afterwards, then you've got something to look forward to? We work closely with a great team of play specialists. It might help to arrange to speak with them or a Radiographer before your scan. If you are already in the hospital for another appointment and you want to have a look at a scanner, come around to CT and have a chat. We'll happily let you have a look around and alleviate those nerves.

Why not have a look at this YouTube link of a CT scan to see what to expect.

[A child's guide to hospital: CT Chest - YouTube](#)

Any questions?

Why don't you write your questions down and bring them with you on the day?

We're looking forward to meeting you.

CT Team.

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