

Fasting CT Scan – A Patients Guide

How does a CT (Computed Tomography) Scanner work?

X-rays pass through your body as you slowly slide through the scanner, producing cross sectional images.

Who does your Scan?

You will be scanned by a Radiographer who is specially trained in this area.

Before your Scan

Please have NOTHING TO EAT OR DRINK FOR 4 HOURS prior to your appointment time. If you are diabetic and have concerns regarding this, please contact the diabetes nurses on 01702 385072.

The Radiographers will check through your safety questionnaire prior to your scan when you are consented for the procedure. For most examinations you will need to change into a gown and remove jewellery. It may be possible to avoid this if you attend in clothing that is completely free of metal fittings, zips, clips, buttons etc.

On arrival you will be given a drink (mainly water) to help show abdominal structures. **There will usually be a pause of 30-60 minutes while the drink is digested.** The scan itself takes approximately 15 minutes and you should have no side effects.

During the Scan

The Radiographer will explain the procedure to you before the examination starts and you should feel free to ask questions. Some examinations may require an injection of a special iodine based dye. This can be helpful in providing maximum diagnostic information from your test. The Radiographer will explain this to you if it is required for your examination. You should not drive for one hour after the injection. You will also be asked to follow swallowing and/or breathing instructions for short periods of time depending on the body part being examined.

Who interprets your Scan

A Radiologist will interpret your scan. This is a doctor that has specialised in medical imaging.

Results

The outpatient department or your referring clinician will tell you when you go back for your results

If you have any questions please contact the CT & MRI Reception Desk on 01702 385036 or Fax 01702 385921