



CT Scan Information

Please read carefully.

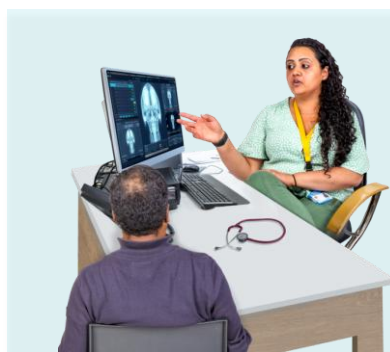


What is a CT scan?



A CT scan uses x-rays to take lots of pictures inside your body.

A computer puts these pictures together to show doctors detailed information.



CT scans give doctors information to help them look after you.



CT scans do not hurt you.



The person who does your CT scan is called a **radiographer**.

How long will the CT scan take?



The scan can take up to 15 minutes.

We will let you know if there are any delays.

Are CT scans safe?



CT scans use a small amount of radiation. The risks of radiation are smaller than not having the scan.

It is important to find out what is wrong with you.

Before your CT Scan



If you think you might be pregnant please call us on 028 961 58900.

Call Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.



For **some** scans we will ask you not to eat or drink before them. This is called fasting.

Your appointment letter will tell you how long to fast for before the scan.



You can take medication as normal.

When you get to the CT Scan Department



Go to reception. They will book you in.

Have a seat in the waiting room.



Let us know if you need someone to support you during your CT scan.



Let us know if you have

- had an operation on your bowel **and**
- now you collect your poo in a bag.

Please bring spare bags with you.



If we need pictures of your stomach and bowel you may be asked to drink a liquid.

The liquid helps us take good pictures.



You may be asked to change into a hospital gown. You can do this in a changing room.

If your clothes have no metal on them then you can wear them for your scan.
For example, no metal zips or buttons.



If we scan your head, you must take off

- head coverings
- hairbands
- hairgrips
- and earrings.



For some scans metal dentures and hearing aids also need to be taken off.



The radiographer will explain what will happen before the scan.



The radiographer will ask you if you are happy to have the CT scan.

You can say yes or no.

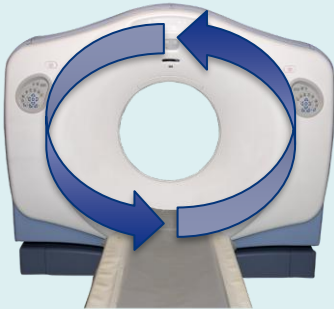
You can ask us questions at any time.

During your CT scan



The scanner is shaped like a large donut. It is open at both ends.

You lie down on a bed that moves you into the hole.



The ring-like part of the scanner circles around you as your body moves through it.



You may be asked to hold your breath while the scanner takes pictures.

If you have problems holding your breath please tell us.



The scan is **not** noisy. You do not need to wear headphones.



The radiographer will be in a room with a large window.

They can see you and talk with you.

Tell the radiographer if you are uncomfortable or worried at any time.

Will I need an injection?



Some patients need an injection to show your blood vessels and organs clearly.

This is called an **injection of contrast**.



We ask you questions about your health to make sure it is ok to give you the injection.



We use a cannula to give you the injection while you have your scan.

A cannula is a tube that is put into your vein.



The injection can

- give you a metal taste in your mouth
- make your body feel warm
- and make you feel like you need to wee.

This feeling lasts for about 30 seconds.

After your CT scan



When your scan is done you can go home **unless** you had an injection of contrast.

If you had an injection of contrast you need to wait 1 hour before going home.

Results



If your GP sent you for your scan

Results are sent to your GP in 2 - 4 weeks.

If a hospital doctor sent you for your scan

Results will be sent to your hospital doctor. They will talk you through your results at your next appointment.

What we do with your CT Scan



Your CT scan will be kept on our computers.

This means your doctors and other health professionals can look at them.



We might use your CT scan for learning, training or to check how well we work.

Please tell us if you do not want your CT scan used.

Questions



We can answer any questions you have

- when you come in for your CT scan or
- over the phone.

You can call the hospital department your scan is happening in.

Royal Victoria Hospital 028961 50114
Belfast City Hospital 028950 41120
Mater Infirmery Hospital 082950 41569
Musgrave Park Hospital 028950 41634

Tell us what you think

**Tell us
what
you
think**



Tell us what you think about your CT scan experience.

Use the contact information below.



Telephone 028 9504 8000
(Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm)



Textphone 18001 028 950 48000



Email compliments@belfasttrust.hscni.net



Online
www.belfasttrust.hscni.net/contact/FeedbackForm.htm

Care Opinion



Share your health and social care experiences at
www.careopinion.org.uk
or by scanning the QR code.