



The CT scanner looks like a large doughnut.



You need to lie very still on the bed for your scan.

The bed will move into the doughnut as it takes the scan.



The scan is processed on a computer to show different parts of your body. The area the doctor needs to see is highlighted.

On the scan, bone is white, air is black, soft tissue is varying shades of grey.

The computer can even use the information to make 3D models of your body – such as these images of the spine.

FACTS ABOUT CT

- CT stands for **C**omputerised **T**omography.

- A CT scanner uses x-rays to create pictures. It takes multiple images or 'slices' at different angles which are then stacked like slices of bread to make a 3D picture of inside your body.

- CT uses a computer and a lot of mathematical algorithms to reconstruct the images in different ways to visualise different parts of your anatomy.

- Godfrey Hounsfield invented the CT scanner in 1972. At first CT scans could take 30 minutes or more. Today with advances in technology similar scans can take only 1 or 2 seconds.



Come for your CT Scan

Computerised Tomography

At The Imaging Department
Place Royal Hospital for Children
and Young People
Little France
Edinburgh
EH16 4SA

Tel: 0131 312 0896



SCAN and Find more
information about
Scans and X-rays



CT

Information for parents and carers -

What is a CT scanner and how does it work?

The initials CT stand for Computerised Tomography.

CT is a method of obtaining high quality 3D images using x-rays. Multiple images or "slices" are taken at different angles which are then processed by a computer to produce a 3D picture of the body. It can image both bone and soft tissue.

What will the CT examination involve?

Your child will be positioned on the bed which moves into the scanner as it takes the scan. The CT scanner looks rather like a large polo-mint and sounds a bit like a washing machine. It is important that your child keeps very still.

The radiographer will be able to see your child and talk to them through a two-way intercom at all times throughout the scan which typically takes from 5 – 10 minutes.

Sometimes your child will require an injection of contrast agent which can help the doctor see parts of the body more clearly and aid diagnosis. We can apply local anaesthetic cream to the skin prior to injection.

You will be asked to stay in the scanning room with your child.

If you are or may be pregnant you will not be able to stay in the room while the scan is being done. In this case another familiar adult should stay with your child. Other children will not be allowed in the scanning room so please make arrangements for them to be looked after at home.

What happens after the scan?

Once the examination is complete, your child will be able to leave the department. If they have had an injection of contrast they will be asked to remain in the department for a further 15 minutes. Your child should experience no discomfort following this scan and can return to their normal daily routine.

What Preparation is required?

There are no special preparations for this scan.

If your child is having a body scan (not a head scan), zips or clips on clothing can affect the images, please bring pyjamas or plain clothes such as a plain t-shirt (with no sparkly motifs) and jogging bottoms for your child to wear.

All watches, removable dental plates, braces, hearing aids, jewellery including piercings must be removed prior to scanning.

What if my child is taking medication?

Do not stop any prescribed medications. The scan will not affect the usefulness of the drug. If you have any questions about this please contact the department.

How will I get the results of the test?

The results will be sent to the doctor who asked for this test, normally within 7-10 days. The doctor who has asked for the test will then send you a follow-up appointment to discuss your results with them. If this was your GP, please contact them directly after 7-10 days.

What if I do not speak English?

If you need help with the English language please phone **0131 312 0896** as soon as possible and we can arrange an interpreter for you.

How do I get to the CT Department.

The CT Department is in the Imaging Department on the ground floor. Book in for your appointment at the Imaging Department reception.

For more information about the Imaging Department and your scan.

Please visit www.children.nhsllothian.scot/the-rhcyp

You can scan the QR code on the front of this leaflet.

Public Transport and Travel Information.

Bus details available from:

Lothian Buses on 0131 555 6363 or www.lothianbuses.co.uk

Traveline Scotland on 08712 002 233 or www.travelinescotland.com

Train details available from:

National Rail Enquiries on 03457 484 950 or www.nationalrail.co.uk

Keeping your appointment - If you cannot keep your appointment, or have been given one that is unsuitable, please change it by phoning the number on your appointment letter. Your call will give someone else the chance to be seen and will help us keep waiting times to a minimum.