



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

Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Under General Anesthetic

Afternoon appointment

When pm.

Where Crichton (Level 1)

Royal Hospital for Children
and Young People
Little France
Edinburgh
EH16 4SA

Tel: 0131 312 0896
Office hours Monday – Friday
8.30am-4.30pm



SCAN and Find more
information about
Scans and X-rays



Information for parents and carers -

CT Scan – Under General Anaesthetic

A parent or legal guardian must accompany your child to provide consent for the procedure under General Anaesthetic. If your child is unwell e.g. a bad cold, high temperature, vomiting, diarrhoea, is on antibiotics, or recently had any immunisations or has had contact with anyone with chickenpox please telephone the number on the front of this leaflet for advice as soon as possible.

After a general anaesthetic, public transport home is not permitted. If other transport is not available, please telephone the ward specified on your appointment letter.

How long will the procedure take?

Please attend the specified ward at your given appointment time as it's essential that medical staff assess your child's fitness prior to anaesthetic. The scan time will be confirmed after your child's assessment from the anaesthetic team. Your child will stay in the ward until late afternoon, early evening. In some cases children are kept in hospital overnight. If this is the case the reasons will be explained to you. You may wish to prepare an overnight bag.

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. They will feel no affects during this scan. Your child will be closely monitored by the anaesthetic team. The radiographer will be able to see your child at all times throughout the scan which typically takes from 5 –10 minutes.

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.

What Preparation is required ?

Important information – please read

Your child is required to have an empty stomach for a General Anaesthetic.

Ensure no solid food is eaten after 7.30am. You can give your child a small drink of clear fluids (not milk) until 12.30am.

If your child is under 1 year old and you wish to give them milk, then breast milk can be given until 9.30am and formula milk can be given until 7.30am.

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.

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 Crichton (Level 1)?

At main reception take the lift or stairs to Level 1.

For more information about the Imaging Department and your scan.

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

Need to change or cancel your appointment? Please change or cancel your appointment by phoning as soon as possible – Tel: 0131 312 0896.
(Phone in office hours Monday-Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm). Your call will give someone else the chance to be seen and will help us keep waiting times to a minimum.